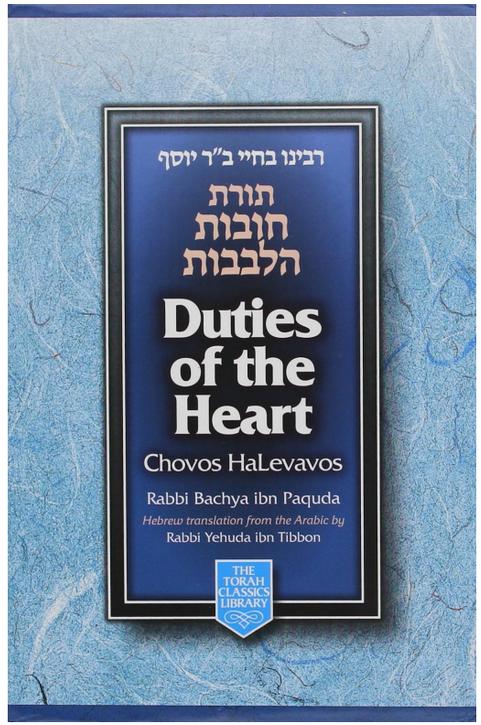
Mussar Books PDF

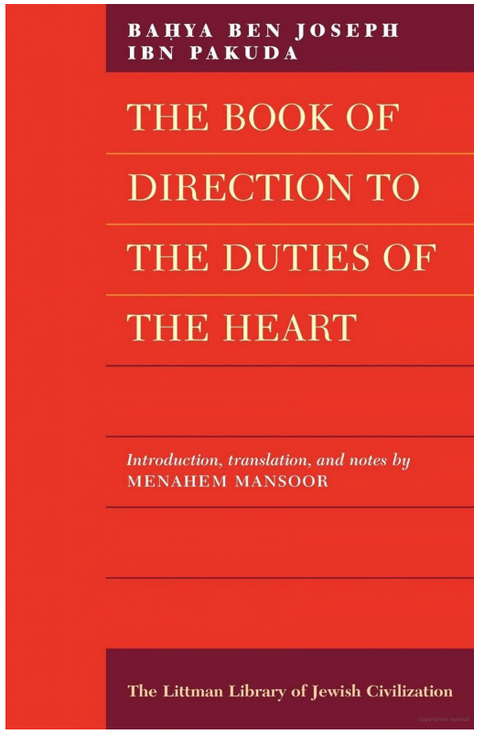
Welcome to the biggest and most detailed list of Mussar books to be found anywhere, compliments of the Mussar Center! These book are organized under six categories: Best, Rabbinic, Classic, Movement Writings, Movement History, and Modern.

Visit www.mussar.center to see this list online and sign up for videos summaries of these books. Also, if you see any information that could be updated/corrected or books that could be added, would you tell us through the contact page on the website or by email at email@mussar.center?

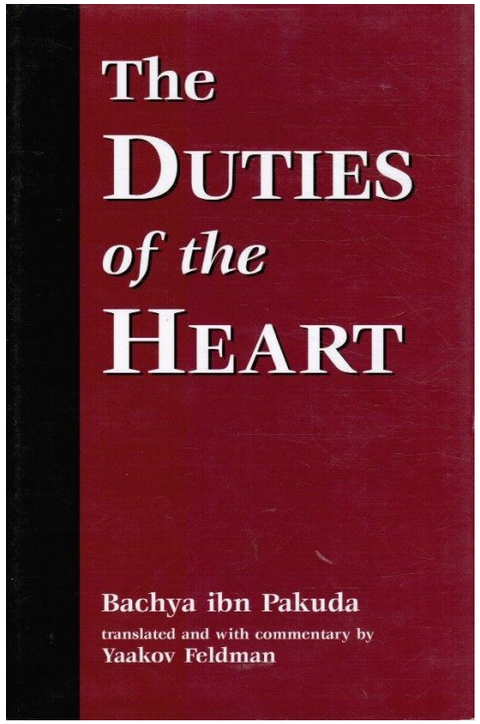
When you buy a book (סֵפֶר/sefer) from this PDF we receive a small percentage so thank you for your support! Let's start with ten of the best and most popular Mussar books (סְפָרִים/seforim) of all time:



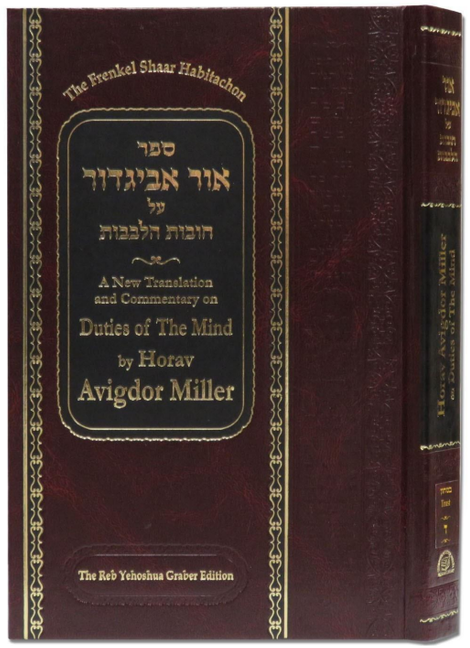
Duties of the Heart or Chovot HaLevavot (חובות הלבבות) was originally written in Judea-Arabic around 1080 by Bahya Ibn Pakuda (בחיי אבן פקודה) and was translated into Hebrew about a century later. The first chapter is of a more philosophical nature and is often skipped by Mussar teachers. Get Feldheim's translation by Daniel Haberman as a two-volume Hebrew/English 1996 compact or fullsize edition, or the 1999 pocketsize or fullsize edition. 926 pages.


BAḤYA BEN JOSEPH IBN PAKUDA
THE BOOK OF DIRECTION TO THE DUTIES OF THE HEART
Introduction, translation, and notes by
MENAHEM MANSOOR
The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization

There's also the Littman/Liverpool University's 2000 republication of Menahem Mansoor's original 1973 translation, **Book of Direction to the Duties of the Heart.** 480 pages.

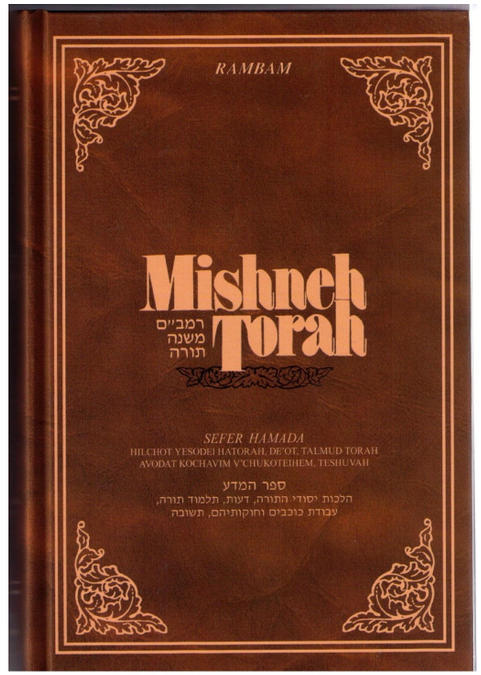


There's also this version of **The Duties of the Heart** with translation and commentary by Yaakov Feldman, published by Jason Aronson in 1996. 484 pages.

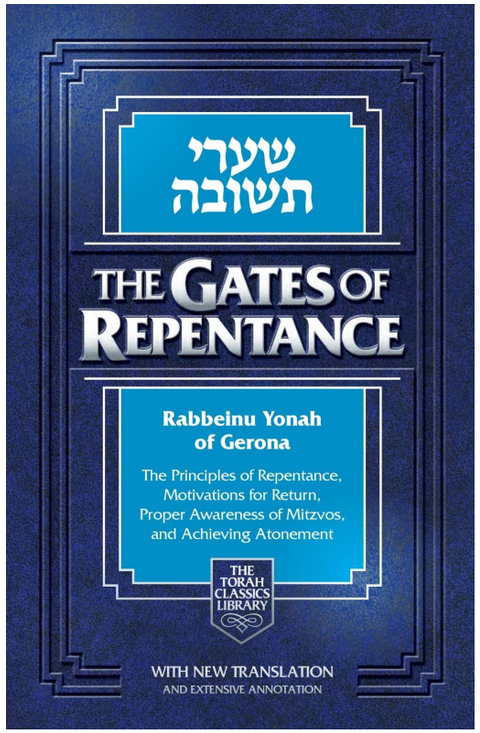


And last and best, **Ohr Avigdor: Duties of the Mind** is a new five-volume translation of **Chovos Halevavos** with extensive and innovative commentary from Rabbi Avigdor Miller (1908-2001 Wikipedia) who studied at the famous pre-war Mussar yeshiva of Slobodka, edited by Yitzchok Kirzner and published between 2008 and 2020 by Yeshiva Gedolah Bais Yisroel and Simchas Hachaim Publishing:

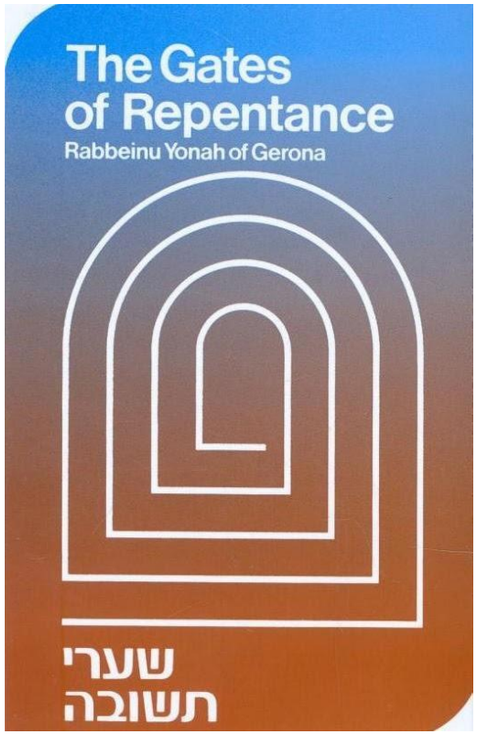
Volume 1 (Introduction & Sha'ar Yichud); Volume 2 (Sha'ar Habechinah); Volume 3 (Sha'ar Avodas Elokim); Volume 4 (Sha'ar Bitachon); Volume 5 (Sha'ar Yichud Hama'aseh)



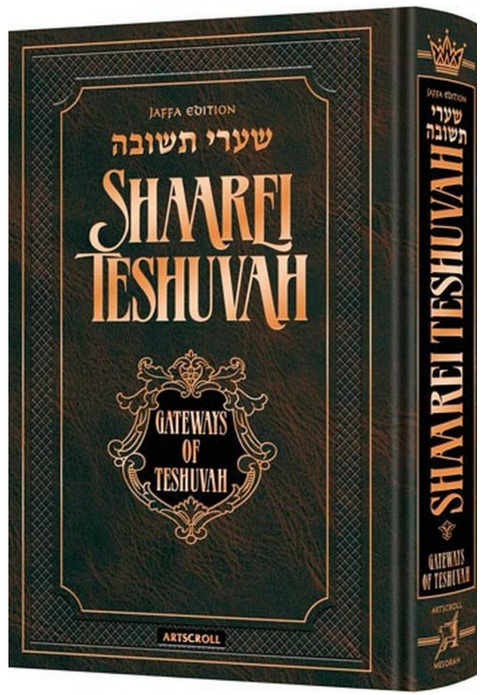
The Laws of Personality or *Hilchot Deot* (הלכות דעות) was written by Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon (רבי משה בן מימון) also known as the Rambam (רמב"ם) around 1180 as part of *Mishneh Torah*, his famous code of Jewish Law. *Hilchos Deos* is the second section of the first book *Sefer Ha'Mada*. Get the 2010 Hebrew/English Moznaim edition. 727 pages (includes four other tractates along with *Hilchot Deot.*)



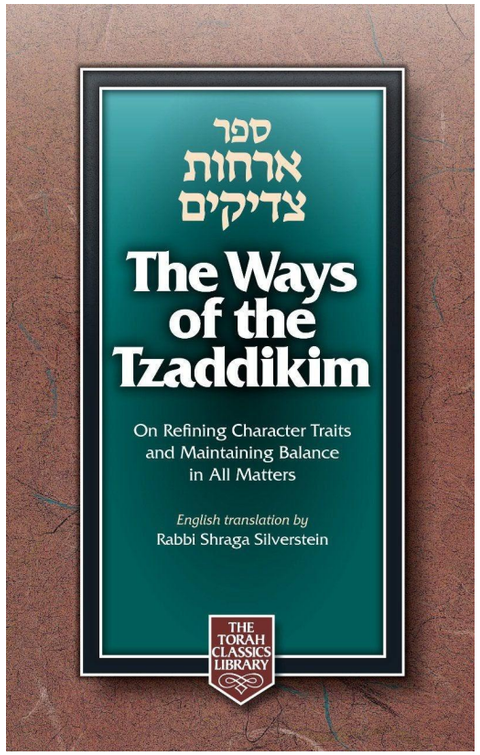
The Gates of Repentance or ***Shaarei Teshuvah*** **(שערי תשובה)** was written by Rabenu Yonah Gerondi (רבנו יונה גירונדי) around 1250. Get the 2014 fullsize or 2016 compact edition of Feldheim's Hebrew/English version, translated by Rabbi Yosef Leibler and edited by Rabbi David Kahn. 512 pages.



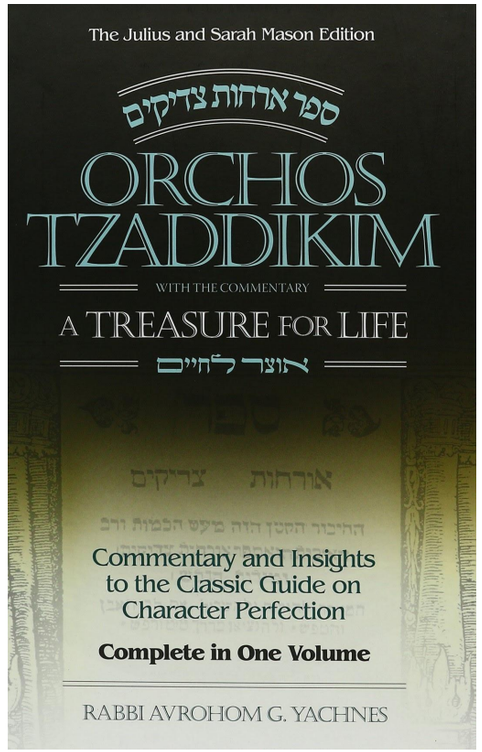
There's also Feldheim's earlier translation of **The Gates Of Repentance** by Shraga Silverstein published in 1967 and again in 1981.



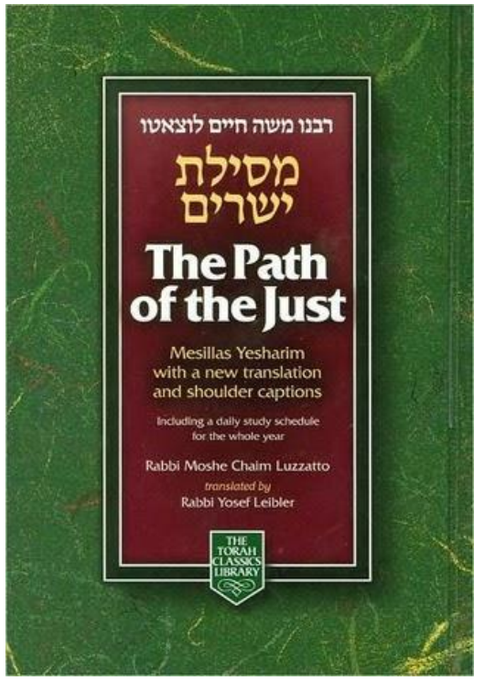
And finally, for a fuller version with notes and commentary see Artscroll's 2016 **Shaarei Teshuvah: Gateways of Teshuvah** which comes in standard and small sizes. 720 pages.



The Ways of the Righteous or *Orchot Tzaddikim* (אורחות צדיקים) was originally titled Book of Character Qualities or *Sefer Ha-Middot* (ספר המידות). It was written in the mid-1500s by an anomymous author whom some suspect may have been a woman. Get Feldheim's **The Ways of the Tzaddikim: On refining Character Traits and Maintaining Balance in All Matters** translated by Shraga Silverstein and published in 1995 in fullsize or pocketsize editions. There are also fullsize 2010 and compact 2017 editions. 648 pages.

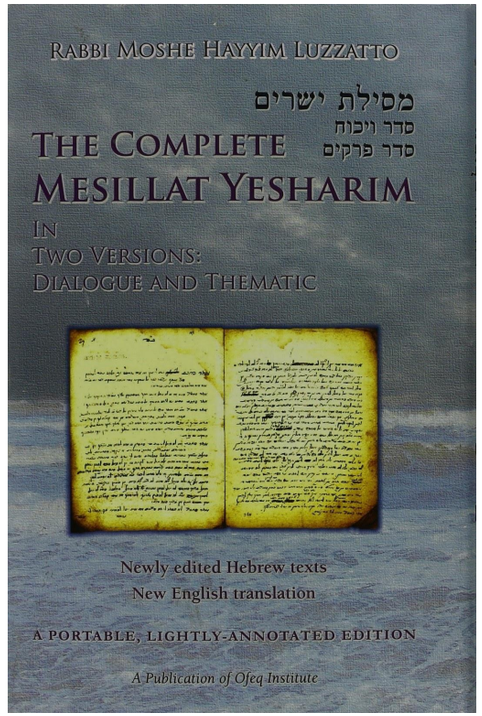


In 2016 Feldheim also published a new version with commentary "including the previously unpublished final seven Gates" translated by Avrohom Yachnes and entitled **Orchos Tzaddikim: A Treasure for Life - Insights to the Classic Guide on Character Perfection**. 1040 pages.

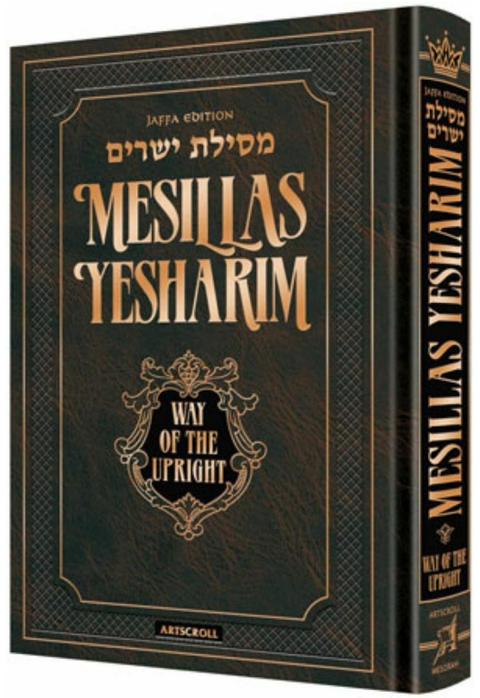


Path of the Just or *Mesillat Yesharim* (מסילת ישרים) was written by Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto (רבי משה חיים לוצאטו), also known as the Ramchal (רמח"ל), around 1740. Get Feldheim's 2004 Hebrew/English fullsize or compact edition, translated by Rabbi Yosef Leibler. 368 pages.

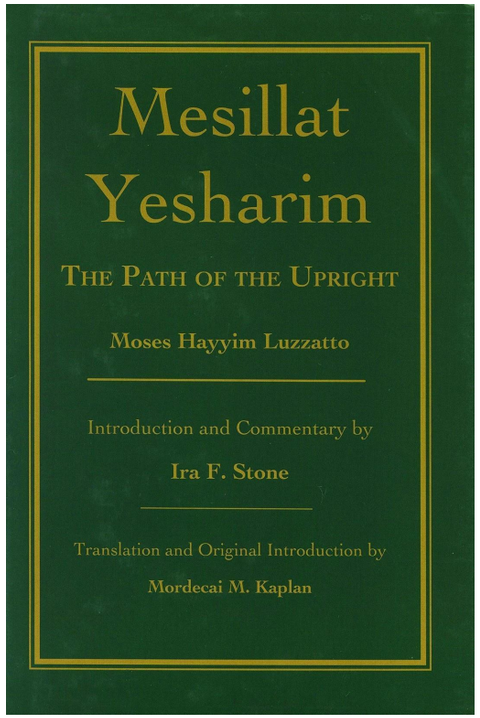
There's also Feldheim's earlier 1993 version of **The Path of The Just** translated by Shraga Silverstein. 340 pages.



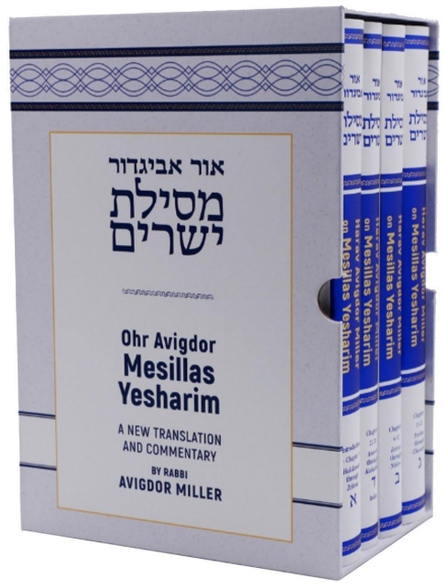
And here's a version based on the original manuscript of this work which was written as a dialogue, translated by Avraham Shoshanna and published by the Ofeq Institute in 2007 (672 pages) and again in 2016 (703 pages).



For a version with commentary see Artscroll's 2013 **Mesillas Yesharim: Way of the Upright** in standard and smaller personal sizes. 552 pages.



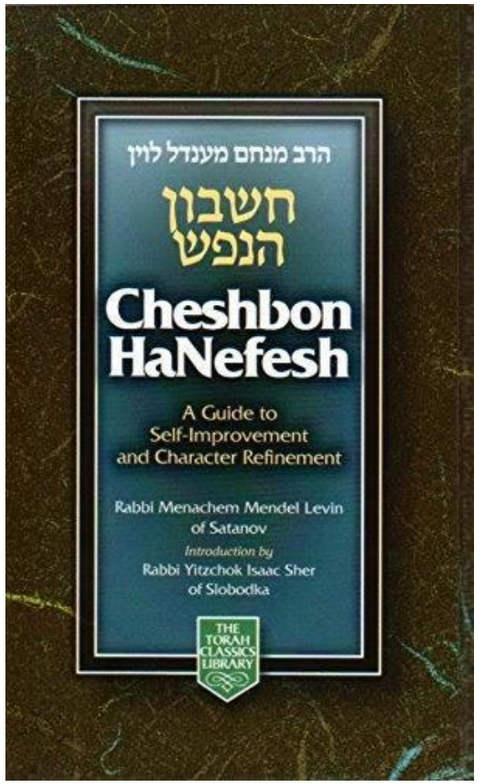
Another version with commentary is the Jewish Publication Society's [2010 republication] of their original 1935 translation by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, now accompanied by an introduction and commentary from Rabbi Ira Stone who also wrote the excellent [A Responsible Life]. 550 pages.



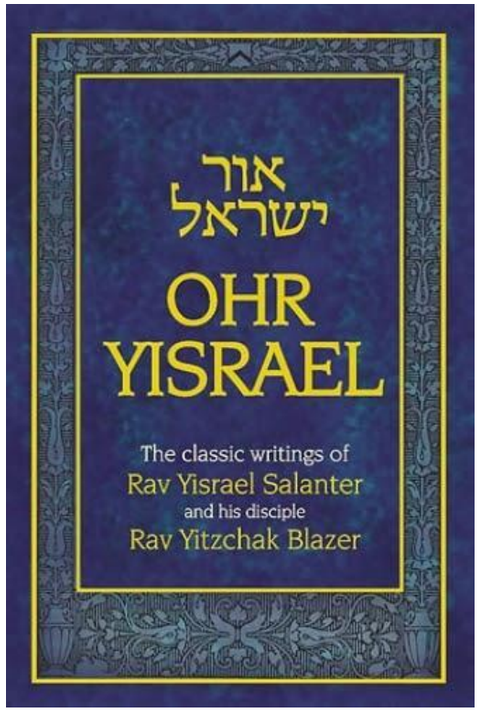
And last and best, **Ohr Avigdor Mesillas Yesharim** is a new translation of Mesillat Yesharim with extensive and innovative commentary from Rabbi Avigdor Miller (1908-2001 [Wikipedia]) who studied at the famous pre-war Mussar yeshiva of Slobodka.

Get the [four-volume boxed set] published by Simchas Hachaim Publishing in 2022 and edited by Moshe Shenker. 1372 pages.

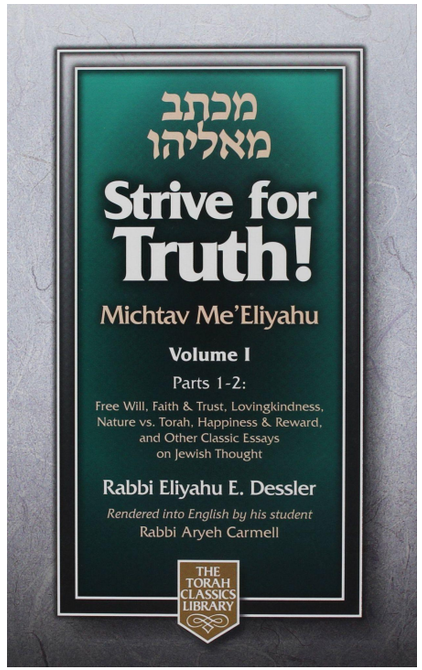
These volumes were also released individually between 2018 and 2021: [Volume 1] (Introduction-Chapter 5: Hakdama-Zehirus; if unavailable on Amazon [search this ISBN]); [Volume 2] (Chapters 6-12: Zerizus-Nekius); [Volume 3] (Chapters 13-21: Perishus-Chasidus); [Volume 4] (Chapters 22-26: Anavah-Kedushah)


הרב מנחם מענדל לוין
חשבון הנפש
Cheshbon HaNefesh
A Guide to Self-Improvement and Character Refinement
Rabbi Menachem Mendel Levin of Satanov
Introduction by
Rabbi Yitzchok Isaac Sher of Slobodka
THE TORAH CLASSICS LIBRARY

Accounting of the Soul or *Cheshbon HaNefesh* (חשבון הנפש) was written by Rabbi Menachem Mendel Levin (רבי מנחם מנדל לפין) in 1809 propounding a system of character development borrowed from Benjamin Franklin. Get the 1996 Hebrew/English book published by [Feldheim] or by searching the [ISBN]. 192 pages.



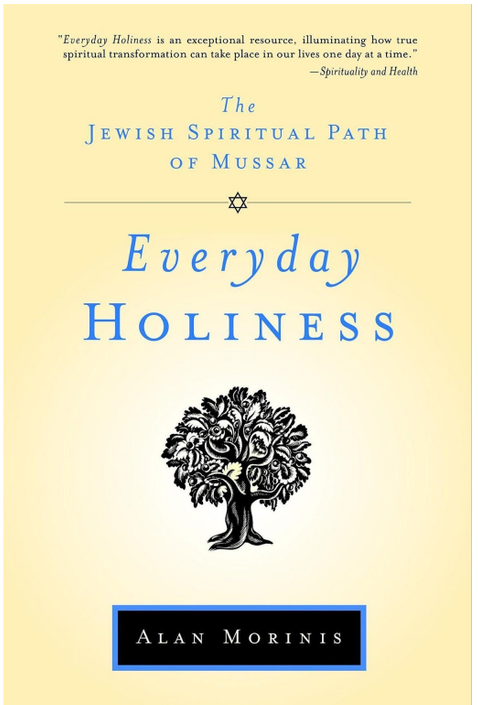
The Light of Israel or *Ohr Yisrael* (אור ישראל) was written in 1890 by Yitzchak Blazer (יצחק בלאזר), the chief disciple of Rabbi Yisrael Salanter (רבי ישראל מסלנט). Collection of the famous Mussar Epistle (אגרת המוסר) and other writings of the Mussar movement's founder along with Blazer's teachings and memoirs. Get the Hebrew-English edition translated by Zvi Miller and published by Feldheim in 2005 or by searching the ISBN. 606 pages. (See also this guide written by the translator.)


מכתב מאליהו
Strive for Truth!
Michtav Me'Eliyahu
Volume I
Parts 1-2:
Free Will, Faith & Trust, Lovingkindness, Nature vs. Torah, Happiness & Reward, and Other Classic Essays on Jewish Thought
Rabbi Eliyahu E. Dessler
Rendered into English by his student
Rabbi Aryeh Carmell
THE TORAH CLASSICS LIBRARY

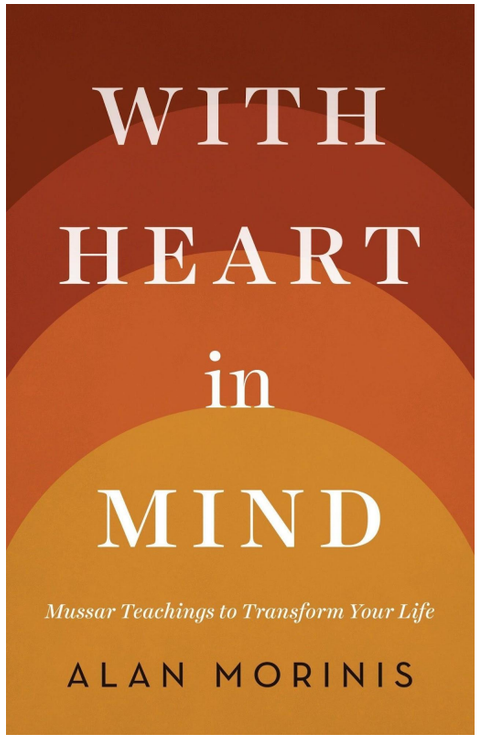
Strive for Truth or *Michtav Me'Eliyahu* (מכתב מאליהו, literally 'Letter from Elijah') is a five-volume series based on the deeply insightful lectures of Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler (1892-1953) (אליהו אליעזר דסלר, Wikipedia), the great-grandson of Rabbi Israel Salanter himself.

Get the fullsize or compact editions of Feldheim's 2016 English two-volume set; 1014 pages. The other volume is published as Torah commentary; 495 pages.

These volumes were originally published in 1978 as a three-volume set; 436 pages. If unavailable on Amazon search the individual ISBNs for Volume 1, Volume 2, and Volume3.


"Everyday Holiness is an exceptional resource, illuminating how true spiritual transformation can take place in our lives one day at a time."
—Spirituality and Health
The
Jewish Spiritual Path
of Mussar
Everyday
Holiness
Alan Morinis

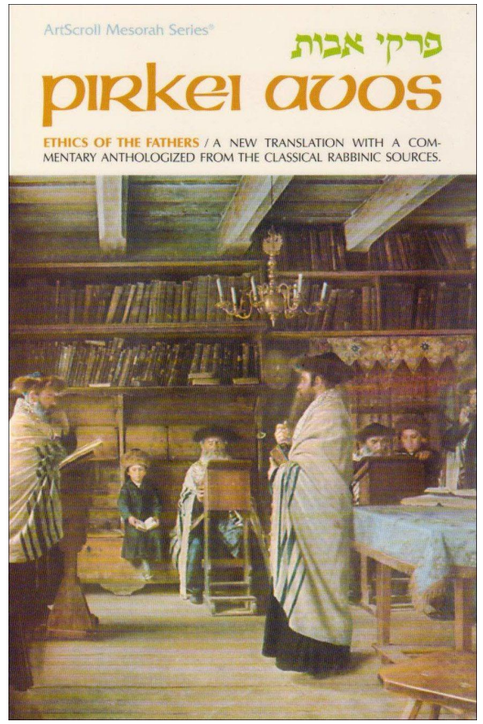
Everyday Holiness was written by Alan Morinis in 2008. It has probably done more to popularize Mussar than any other book in history and is usually the first Mussar book people read. Get Everyday Holiness in paperback, hardcover, audiobook, or Kindle. 352 pages.



With Heart In Mind was written by Alan Morinis in 2014 as a sequel to Everyday Holiness and is just as wonderful. Get it in paperback or Kindle. 192 pages.

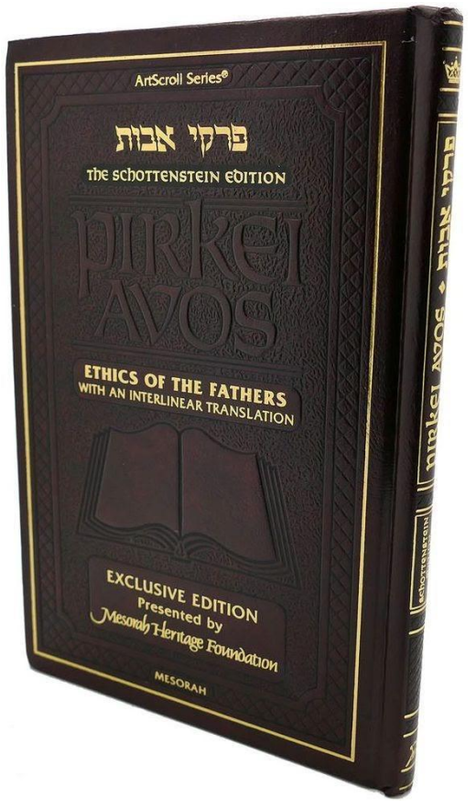
Rabbinic Mussar Literature

Mussar is a genre of Jewish literature (ספרי מוסר) that started in the Bible and began to take rough shape in the next thousand years from approximately 500 BCE to 500 CE, the Rabbinic Era. The following are some of the Rabbinic writings containing at least some Mussar content from that time, along with later commentaries on them.

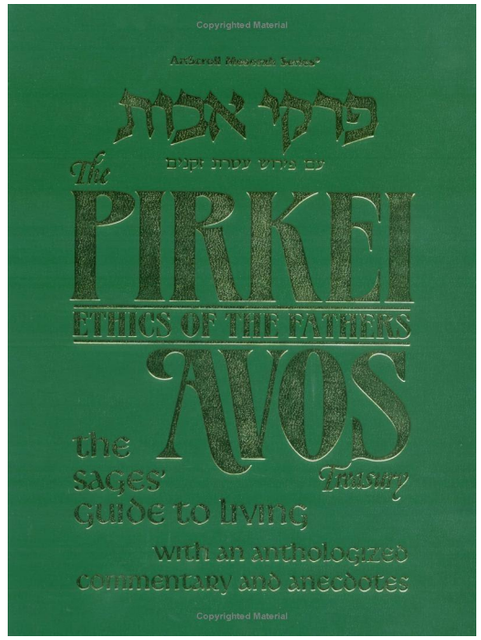

ArtScroll Mesorah Series®
פרקי אבות
pirkei avos
ETHICS OF THE FATHERS / A NEW TRANSLATION WITH A COMMENTARY ANTHOLOGIZED FROM THE CLASSICAL RABBINIC SOURCES.

Ethics of the Fathers or *Pirkei Avot* (פרקי אבות) is a collection of teachings from the ancient Jewish sages. It's often simply called "Avot" or "Fathers/Parents" because of its parental Mussar instruction. One of the 63 tractates of the Mishnah, it was written down in the late 100s. Often a sixth chapter from the Talmud with similar content is appended.

Get Artscroll's lightweight 1999 version of Pirkei Avos: Ethics of the Fathers with concise commentary, edited by Rabbis Meir Zlotowitz and Nosson Scherman. 64 pages.

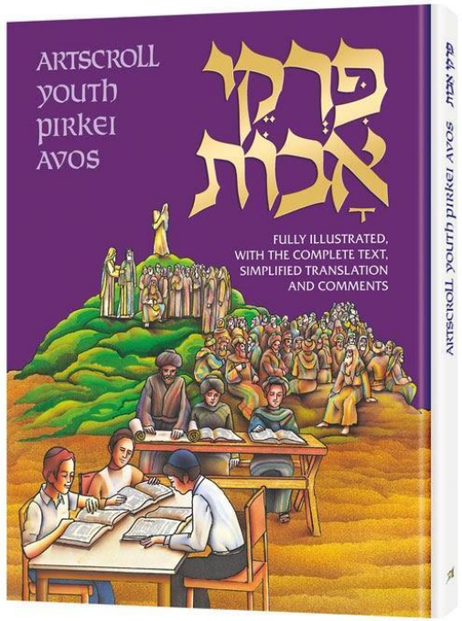


If you're still learning Hebrew, Artscroll also offers the **Schottenstein Hebrew/English Interlinear** from 1995 and 2003 along with this beautiful pocketsize 2006 edition. Edited by Rabbis Menachem Davis, Hillel Danziger, and Avrohom Chaim Feuer. 128 pages.

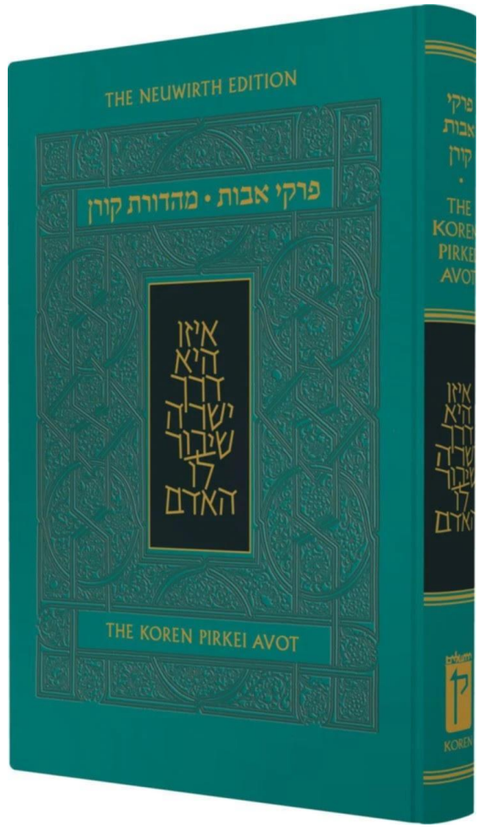


For more commentary see Artscroll's **The Pirkei Avos Treasury: The Sages' Guide to Living With an Anthologized Commentary and Anecdotes** published in 1995 and edited by Rabbi Moshe Lieber. There's also the smaller 1996 three-volume slip-cased set. 439 pages.

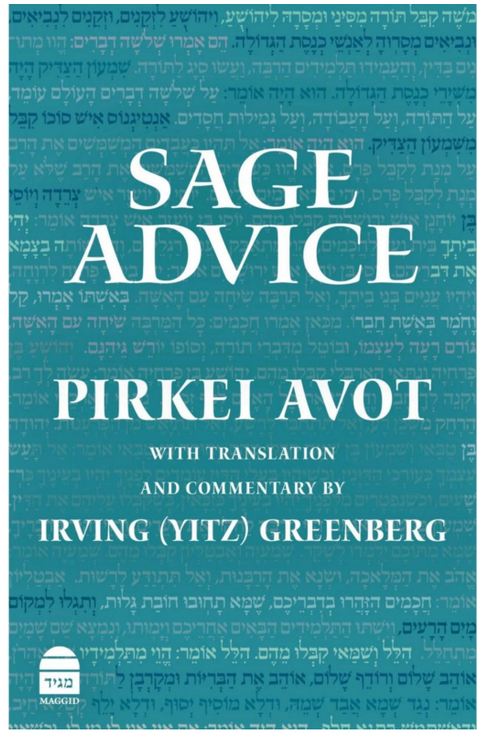
If you like pictures get Artscroll's 2015 Children's Pirkei Avos, written by Shmuel Blitz and illustrated by Chani Judowitz. 108 pages.



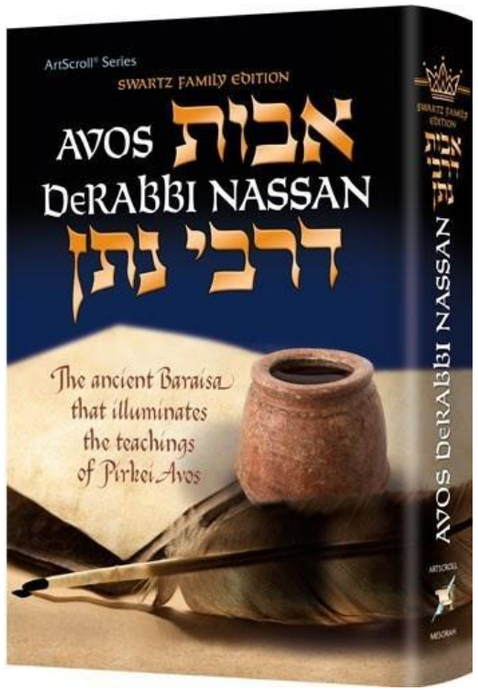
For pictures there's also Artscroll's 2005 **Youth Pirkei Avos** in hardcover and paperback, written by Rabbi Avie Gold and illustrated by Michael Horen and Andras Halasz. This single 88-page volume appears to be a reprint of the original 1989 two-volume set with Volume 1 covering Chapters 1-3 and Volume 2 covering Chapters 4-6. 48 pages each.



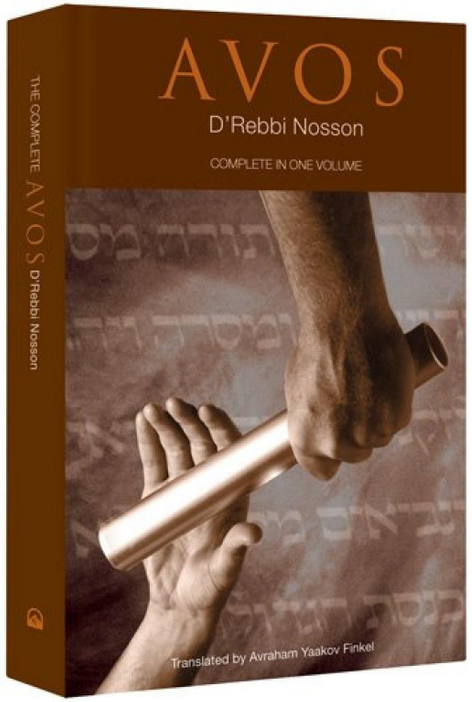
If you prefer Koren get the beautiful 2015 Koren Pirkei Avot translation by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks with commentary from Rabbi Marc Angel.



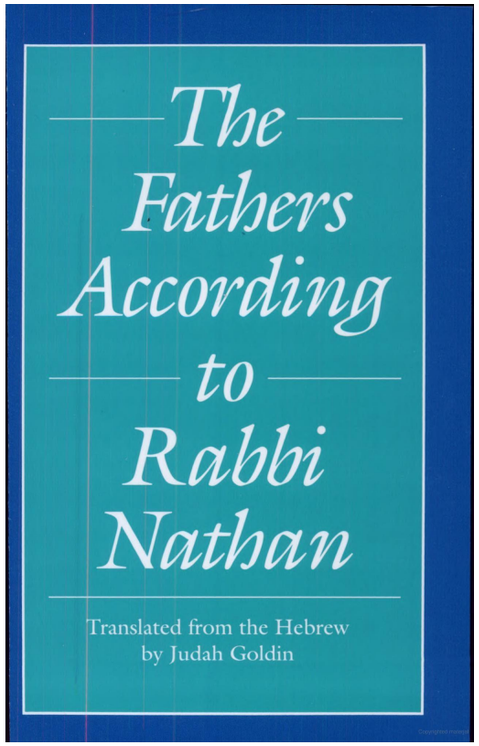
Koren also offers Sage Advice: Pirkei Avot, a 2016 version with translation and commentary "framed by thumbnail sketches of the lives and times of the sages" from Rabbi Irving Yitz Greenberg. 378 pages.



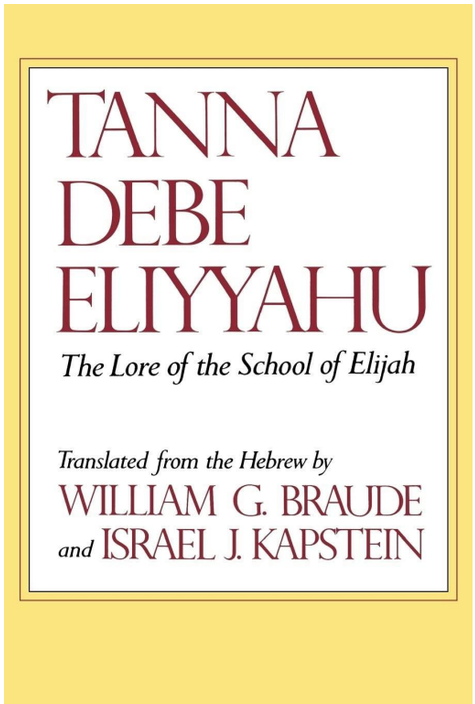
Ethics of Rabbi Nathan or *Avot d'Rabbi Natan* (אבות דרבי נתן) is basically a sequel to the Ethics of the Fathers from roughly the same time and is tucked away as a minor tractate in the Talmud. It's hard to find all the versions because no one spells it the same. Case in point, the above is Artscroll's 2017 Avos DeRabbi Nassan: The ancient baraisa that illuminates the teachings of Pirkei Avos. Along with extensive commentary this version also includes the complete text of Pirkei Avot. 660 pages.



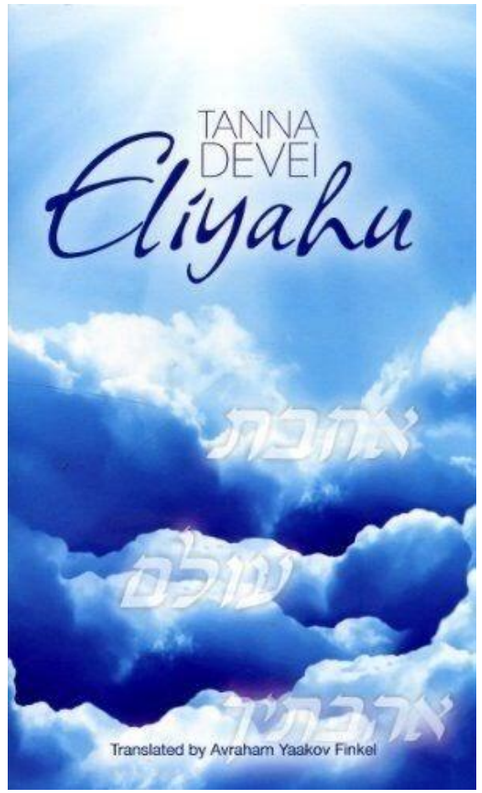
If you'd like a shorter version there's Avos D'Rebbi Nosson, translated by Rabbi Avraham Yaakov Finkel. 229 pages. Originally published in 2006 by Yeshivath Beth Moshe as Volume 1 and Volume 2, they were combined into a single volume by Judaica Press in 2007.



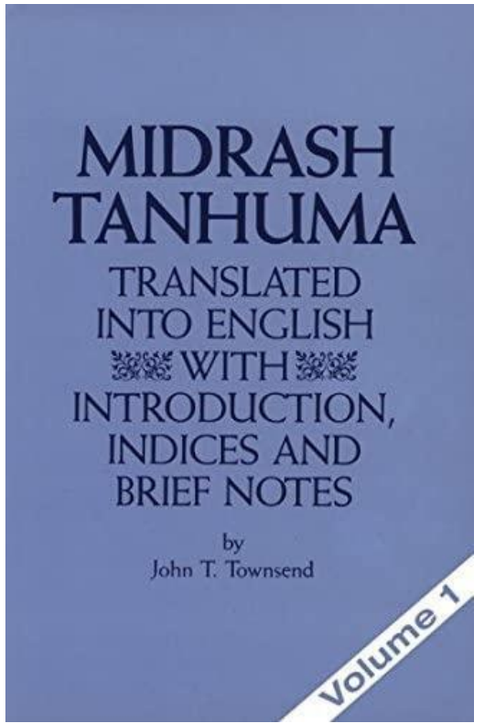
Also noteworthy is the first English translation of **The Fathers According to Rabbi Nathan** by Judah Goldin, published by Yale University in 1955 and republished again in 1956, 1974, and finally in 1990. 304 pages.



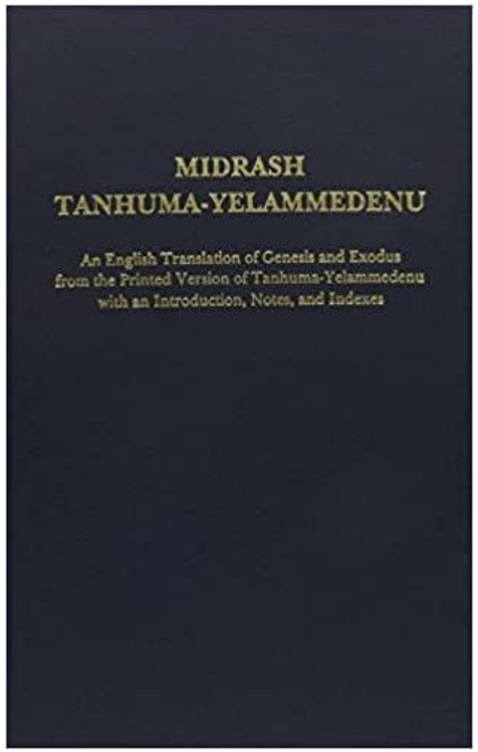
Elijah's Teachings or *Tana Devei Eliyahu* (תנא דבי אליהו) is a Mussar-toned Midrashic work from the early Rabbinic era. Get the English-only Tanna Debe Eliyyahu: The Lore of the School of Elijah translated by William Braude and Israel Kapstein and published by the Jewish Publication Society in 1997. 642 pages. There's also the original 1981 JPS edition, available here and here.



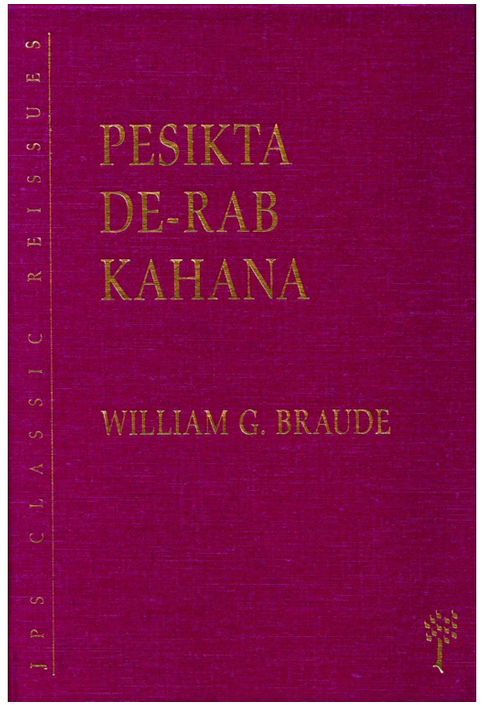
Barely worth mentioning is **Tanna Devei Eliyahu: Teachings from Eliyahu HaNavi** translated and annotated by Rabbi Avraham Yaakov Finkel and published in 2013 by Yeshivath Beth Moshe. This is assumedly Volume 1 but there's no ISBN. Volume 2 can be confirmed through ISBN search. And Volume 3 is also confirmable through ISBN search. This listing claims to also be Volume 3. The last 9 chapters of this work were never completed. In all cases, puchase at your own risk.



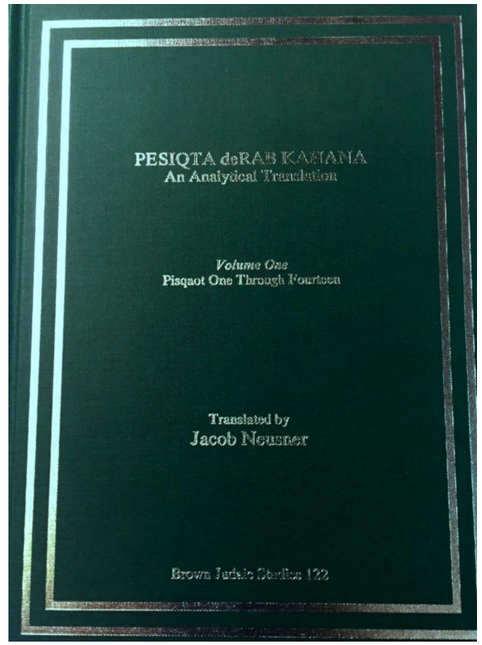
Tanchuma's Expositions or *Midrash Tanchuma* (מדרש תנחומא) is a collection of Midrashic discussions from the early Rabbinic era opening with quotes from Rabbi Tanchuma and containing at least some Mussar teaching. **Midrash Tanhuma: Translated Into English with Introduction, Indices, and Brief Notes** translated by John T. Townsend was published by Ktav Publishing as Volume 1 (Genesis, 334 pages, 1989), Volume 2 (Exodus and Leviticus, 394 pages, 1997), and Volume 3 (Numbers and Deuteronomy, 394 pages, 2003).


MIDRASH
TANHUMA-YELAMMEDENU
An English Translation of Genesis and Exodus
from the Printed Version of Tanhuma-Yelammedenu
with an Introduction, Notes, and Indexes

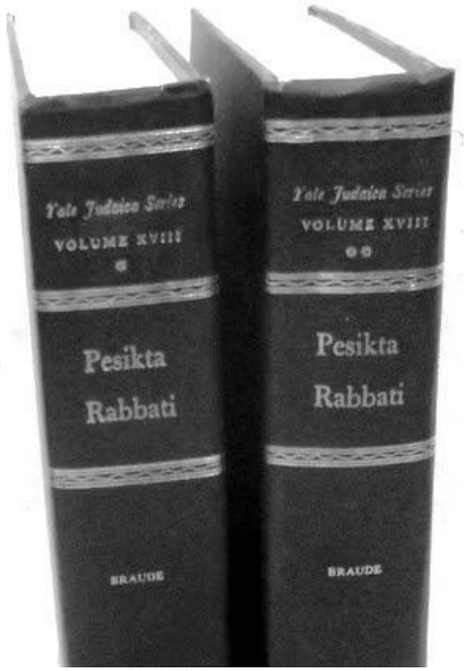
Samuel Berman also did a partial translation as Midrash Tanhuma-Yelammedenu: An English Translation of Genesis and Exodus with an Introduction, Notes, and Indexes. 702 pages, published by Ktav Publishing in 1996.



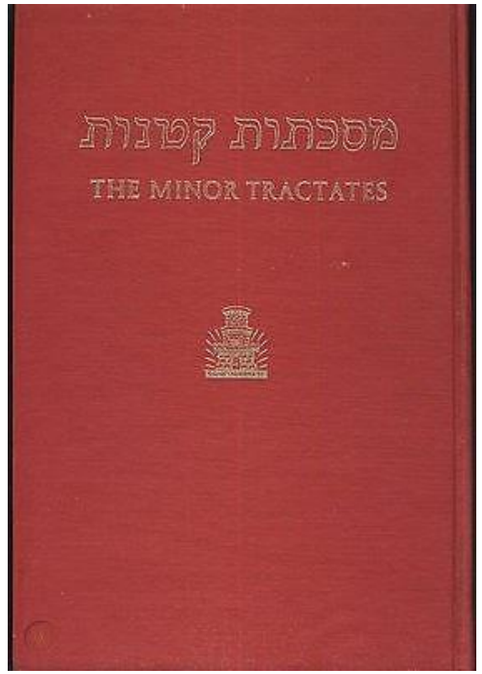
Rav Kahana's Verses or Pesikta d'Rav Kahana (פסיקתא דרב כהנא) is a collection of discourses with opening statements from Rabbi Kahana for Shabbats and Festivals and is one of the earliest Midrashic works with Mussar material. Get Pesikta De-Rab Kahana, translated by Rabbi William Gordon Braude and Israel James Kapstein and published by the Jewish Publication Society in 2002. 864 pages. This is a reprint of the original 1975 593-page edition published by the Jewish Publication Society here and another publisher here.



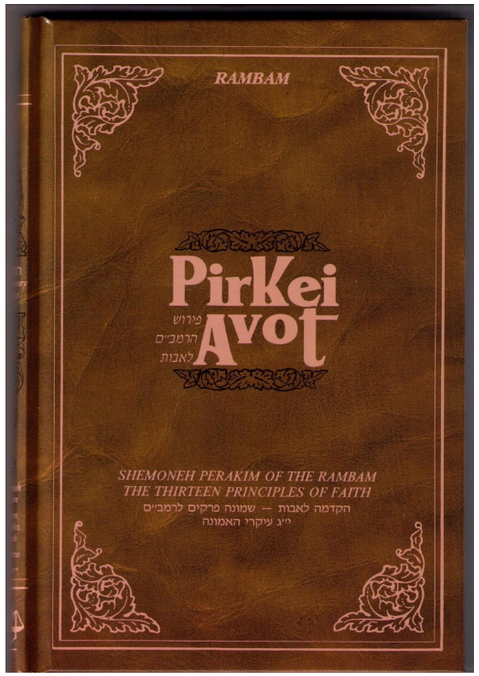
There's also Jacob Neusner's **Pesiqta De-Rab Kahana: An Analytical Translation**, published by Scholars Press in 1987 as issues #122 and #123 of the Brown Judaic Studies series. Volume 1 is Chapters 1-14 and Volume 2 is chapters 15-28 with Introduction. 245 and 274 pages respectively. You can also get this as a two-volume set.



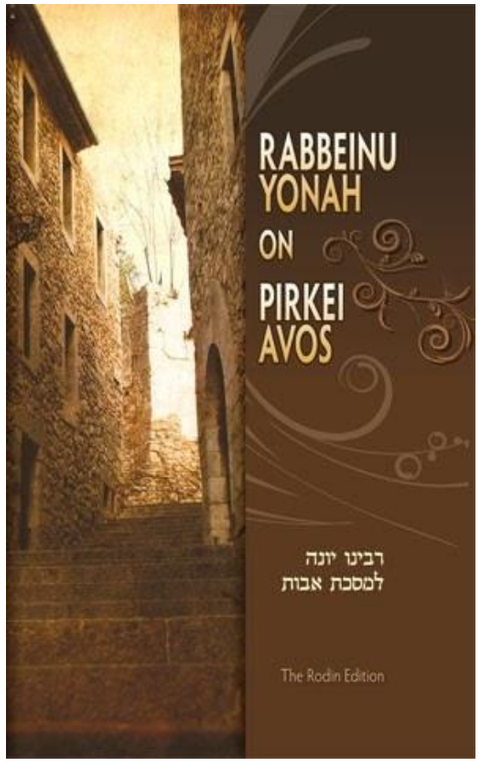
The Big Pesikta or *Pesikta Rabbati* (פסיקתא רבתי) incorporates passages from Pesikta d'Rav Kahana and Tanchuma and also includes new material which features some Mussar content. Get Pesikta Rabbati: Homiletical Discourses for Festal Days and Special Sabbaths, translated by William G. Braude and published in 1968 by Yale University Press. 1050 pages.



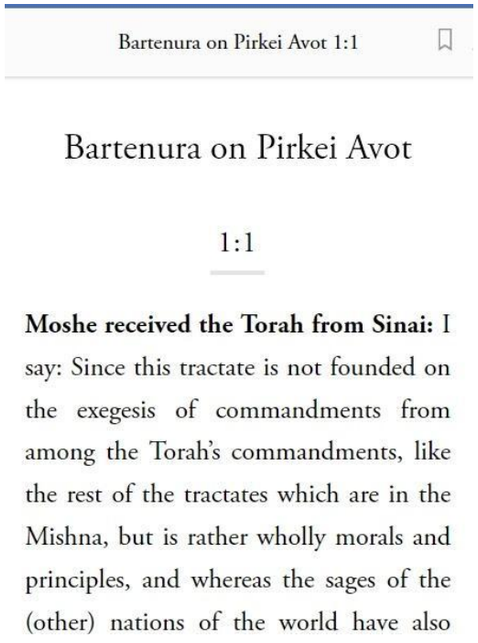
"Little Book of Etiquette" is a loose translation of *Derech Eretz Zutta* (דרך ארץ זוטא), a minor tractate tucked into a corner of the Talmud with 13 other noncanonical works including Pirkei d'Rabbi Natan. It's especially famous for its last 'Chapter of Peace' (פרק השלום/*Perek HaShalom)*. For all 14 Minor Tractates there are Soncino's One-Volume Hebrew-English editions from 1965 and 1984 and their Two-Volume editions from 1965 and 1971. Also search the ISBN. 1442 pages. You can also read it on Sefaria.



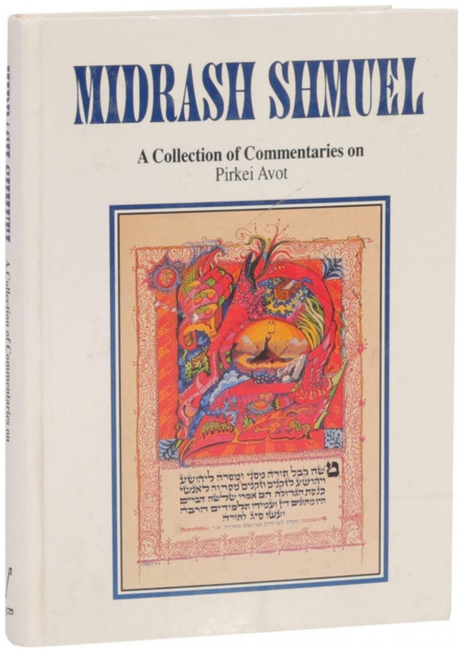
There are Eight Chapters or *Shemoneh Perakim* (שמונה פרקים) in the Rambam's code of Jewish Law known as Mishneh Torah commenting on Pirkei Avot, the first book in this list. Get Moznaim's 1994 edition. 184 pages.



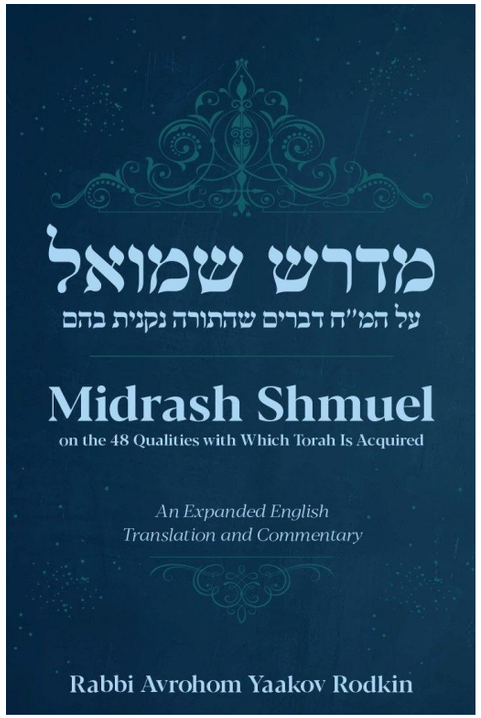
Rabbeinu Yonah Gerondi's commentary on Pirkei Avot was written in the mid-1200s. Get Rabbi David Sedley's 2008 translation published by Judaica Press. 352 pages.


Bartenura on Pirkei Avot 1:1
Bartenura on Pirkei Avot
1:1
Moshe received the Torah from Sinai: I say: Since this tractate is not founded on the exegesis of commandments from among the Torah's commandments, like the rest of the tractates which are in the Mishna, but is rather wholly morals and principles, and whereas the sages of the (other) nations of the world have also

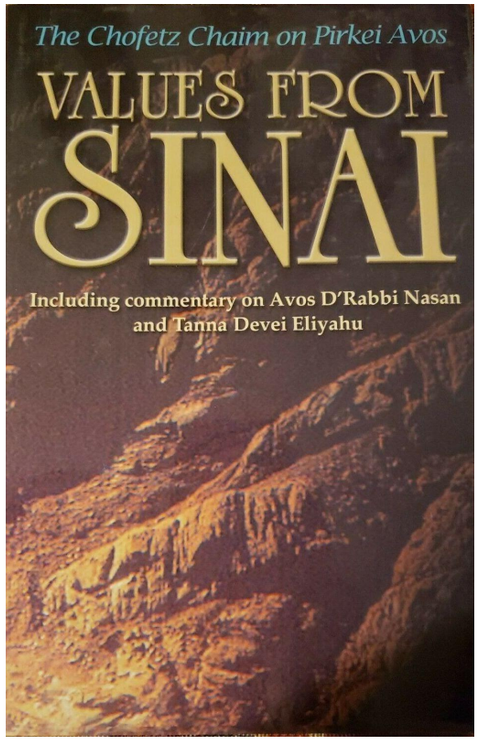
Rabbi Ovadiah Bartenura's commentary on the Mishnah has been standard fare since the late 1400s. Read the only English translation of his commentary on Pirkei Avot, courtesy of Rabbi Robert Alpert, on Sefaria.



Midrash Shmuel or Samuel's Exposition is a commentary on Pirkei Avot which was written by Rabbi Shmuel Di Uzeda (הרב שמואל בן יצחק די אוזידה) in the mid 1500s. Haktav Institute's 1994 440-page translation by Rabbis Moshe Schapiro and David Rottenberg is rare on Amazon but can be had in PDF.


מדרש שמואל
על המ"ח דברים שהתורה נקנית בהם
Midrash Shmuel
on the 48 Qualities with Which Torah Is Acquired
An Expanded English
Translation and Commentary
Rabbi Avrohom Yaakov Rodkin

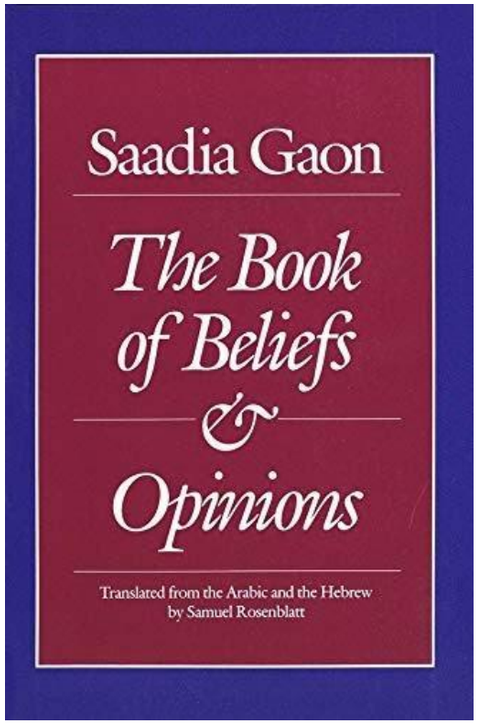
More available is Mosaica Press's 2020 translation with commentary by Rabbi Avrohom Yaakov Rodkin. 237 pages.



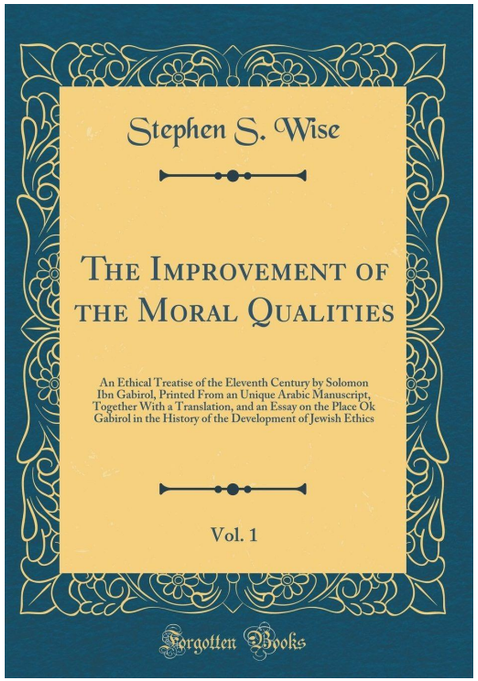
Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan (רבי ישראל מאיר כהן), popularly known as the Chafetz Chaim (חפץ חיים), wrote many Mussar-toned books and was an ally of Rabbi Israel Salanter. He wrote this commentary on Pirkei Avot, along with Avot d'Rabbi Natan and Tanna Devei Eliyahu, in the late 1800s. Get Feldheim's 2002 translation. 364 pages.

Classic Mussar Works

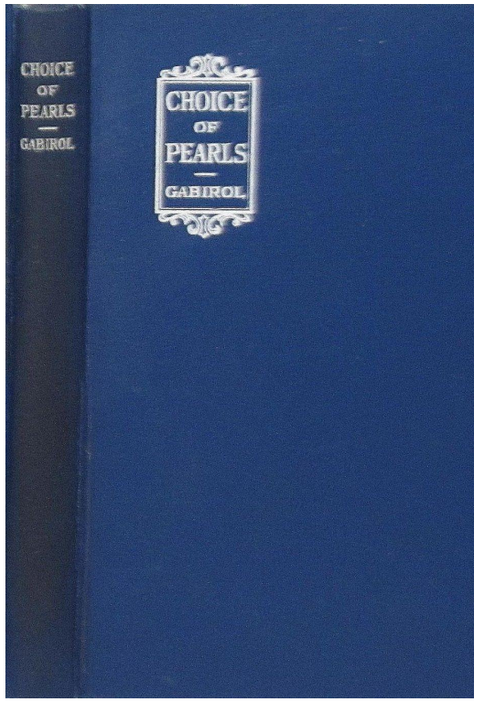
The golden era of Mussar literature lasted for almost a thousand years, beginning with the 900s and stretching on to the start of the historical Mussar movement in the 1800s. These are some of the classic works (מוסר קלאסיי) from that time. Be sure to also see the Top Ten list at the top of this doc for the best books from this era.



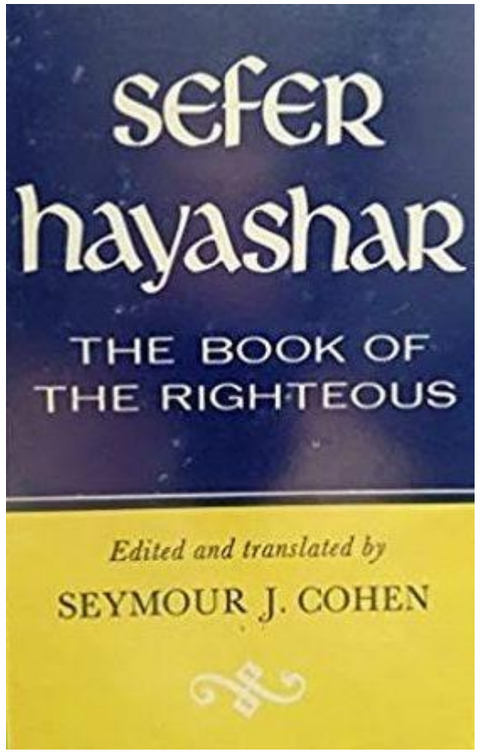
Book of Beliefs and Opinions or *Sefer Emunot v'Deot* (ספר האמונות והדעות) was written by the great Saadia Gaon (סעדיה גאון) in the early 900s as a philosophical defense of the core beliefs of Judaism. Its tenth and final chapter on Moral Conduct in particular was the first glimmering of the classical Mussar era. Originally written in Judeo-Arabic, it wasn't until a couple centuries later that it was translated into Hebrew and a thousand years later that it was translated into English. Get the Samuel Rosenblatt translation, published by Yale, which by 1989 was already in its fifth printing. 498 pages. There's also this reprint of the original Alexander Altmann translation. 200 pages.


Stephen S. Wise
The Improvement of the Moral Qualities
An Ethical Treatise of the Eleventh Century by Solomon Ibn Gabirol, Printed From an Unique Arabic Manuscript, Together With a Translation, and an Essay on the Place Ok Gabirol in the History of the Development of Jewish Ethics
Vol. 1
Forgotten Books

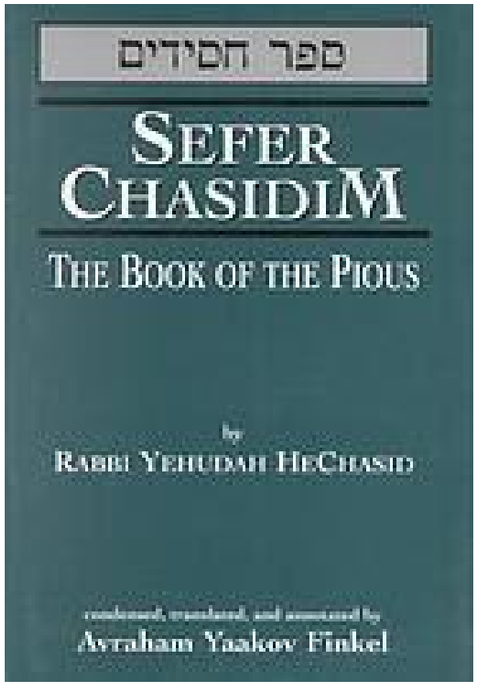
'Fixing Soul Traits' or more commonly 'The Improvement of the Moral Qualities' is a translation of Tikkun Middot Hanefesh (תיקון מידות הנפש). This little book was written by Solomon ibn Gabirol (שלמה אבן גבירול) in Arabic in the early 1000s and was translated into Hebrew over a century later. It was one of the three books that Rabbi Israel Salanter had reprinted for the Mussar movement. Get this reprint of the original 1902 translation by Stephen Wise. 191 pages.



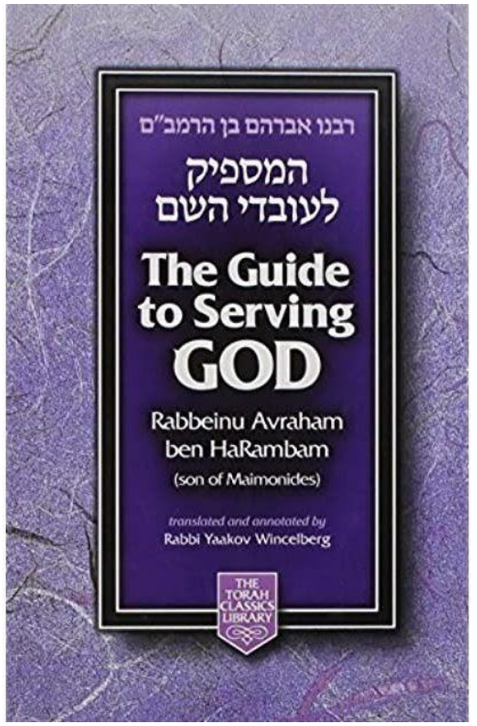
Choice Pearls or *Mivchar Peninim* (מבחר הפנינים) is a collection of Mussar Proverbs written by the poet Solomon ibn Gabirol (שלמה אבן גבירול) in the early 1000s. Get this reprint of the original 1859 translation by B. H. Ascher. 216 pages.



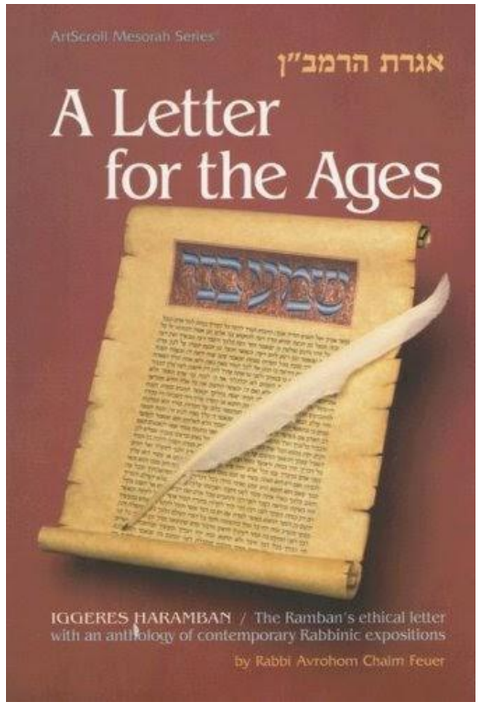
Book of the Righteous or *Sefer HaYashar* (ספר הישר) was written in the mid-1100s by an anonymous author, possibly Rabbeinu Tam (רבנו תם). Not to be confused with the quasi-biblical book of Jasher which has the same Hebrew name. Get the 1973 English translation by Seymour Cohen. 298 pages.



The Book of the Pious or Sefer Chasidim (ספר חסידים) was written in the late 1100s by Yehudah HeChasid, Judah the Pious (יהודה החסיד). This rare book is expensive on Amazon but you may be able to use WorldCat to find a library copy. 448 pages.



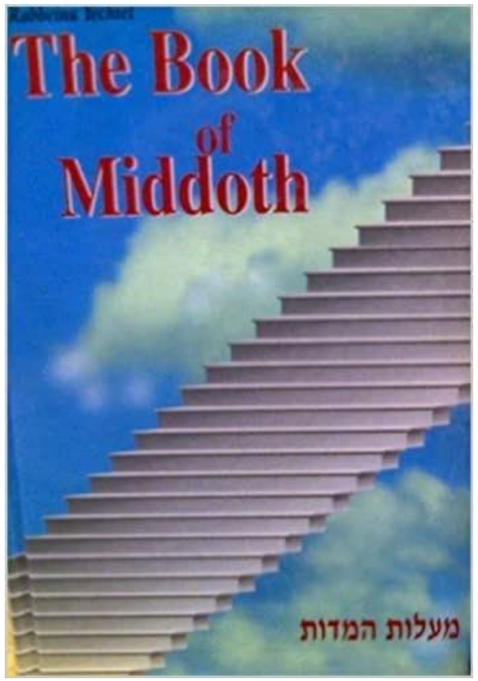
Guide to Serving God or HaMaspik l'Ovdei Hashem (המספיק לעובדי השם) was written by Rabbeinu Avraham (אברהם בן הרמב"ם) the son of the Rambam himself around 1230. Get Feldheim's Hebrew/English 2007 fullsize edition or the 2013 compact edition. 614 pages.


ArtScroll Mesorah Series
אגרת הרמב"ן
A Letter for the Ages
IGGERES HARAMBAN / The Ramban's ethical letter
with an anthology of contemporary Rabbinic expositions
by Rabbi Avrohom Chaim Feuer

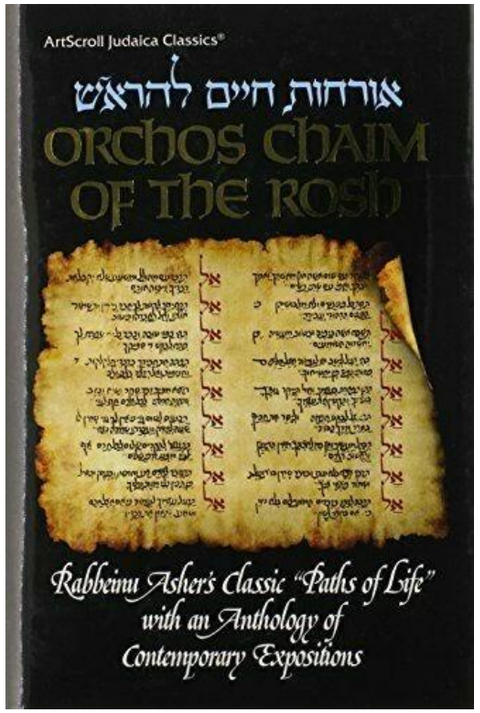
The *Iggeret HaRamban* (אגרת הרמב"ן) was a Mussar letter written by Moses Ben Nachman (רבי משה בן נחמן) commonly known as the Ramban/Nachmanides (רמב"ן) to his son shortly before his death in 1270.

Get Artscroll's 1989 publication of the *Iggeres HaRamban* in Hebrew/English with commentary. 144 pages.

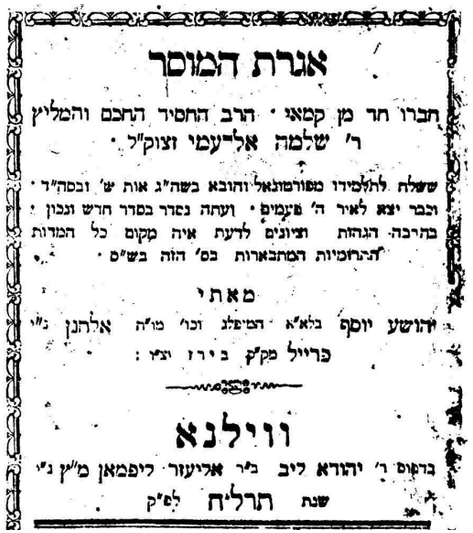
There are also two 2007 'Bentscher' versions with the Grace After Meals prayers, one with a paperback cover and the other leatherette.



Maalot HaMiddot (מעלות המדות) literally means Staircase of Virtues. Written by Yechiel Ben Yekutiel (רבי יחיאל בר יקותיאל) in the late 1200s, it lists 24 qualities/middot and their opposites. Get Moznaim's 1994 translation by Shraga Silverstein, The Book of Middoth. 355 pages.



Paths of Life or *Orchot Chaim* (ארחות חיים) was written in the early 1300s by Rabbeinu Asher Ben Yechiel (רבי אשר בן יחיאל), better known as The Rosh (ראש), to his sons. Get Artscroll's fullsize 1993 publication or the 2016 pocketsize version. 248 pages.


אגרת המוסר

חברו חד מן קמאי · הרב החסיד החכם והמליץ
ר' שלמה אלי'עמי זצוק"ל ·

ששלח לתלמידו מפורטוגאל והובא בשה"ג אות ש' ובסה"ד ·
ובבר יצא לאיר ה' פ'עמים · ועתה נסדר בסדר חדש ונכון ·
בהרבה הגהות וציונים לדעת איה מקום כל המדות
והחתימות המחבארות בס' הזה בש"ס ·

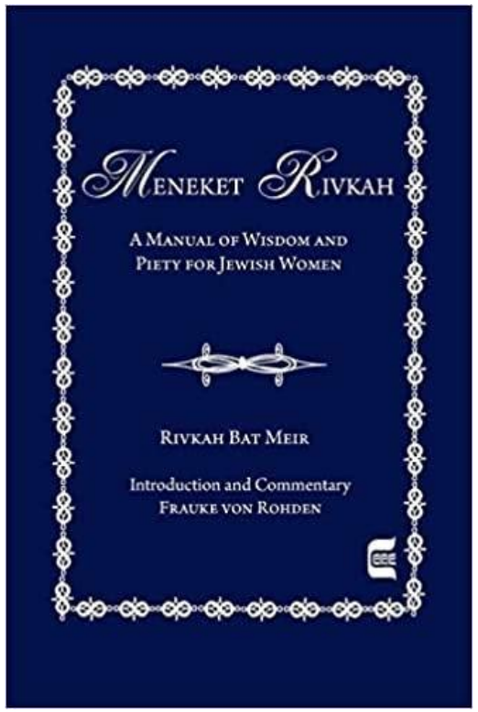
מאתי

יהושע יוסף בלא"א המיוחס וכו' מו"ה אלחנן נ"י
כרייל פק"ק בירז יצ"ו :

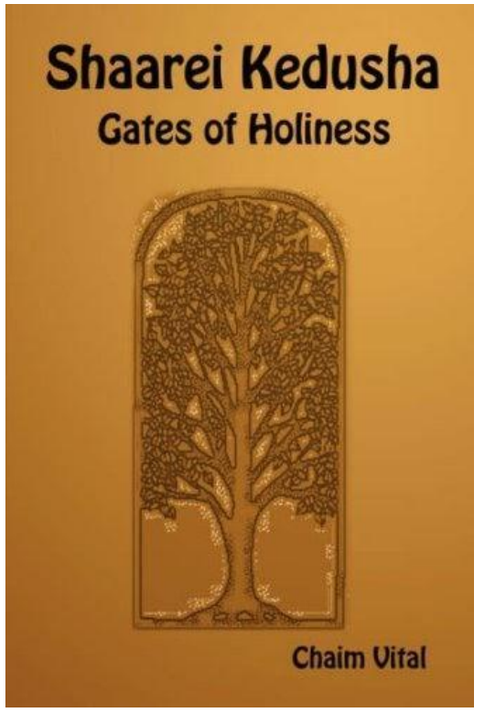
ווילנא

בדפוס ר' יהודא ליב בי"ר אריעזר ליפמאן מ"ץ נ"י
שנת תרליח לפ"ק

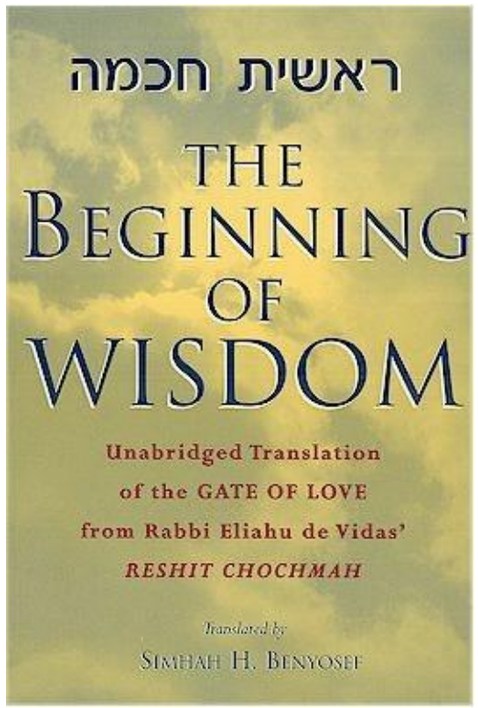
Solomon Alami (שלמה אלעמי) wrote his **Epistle of Rebuke or *Iggeret Mussar* (אגרת מוסר)** to one of his disciples in 1415 as anti-Jewish persecution was sweeping Spain, attempting to explain Why Catastrophes Come. Download part of the letter translated into English.


Meneket Rivkah
A Manual of Wisdom and Piety for Jewish Women
Rivkah Bat Meir
Introduction and Commentary
Frauke von Rohden

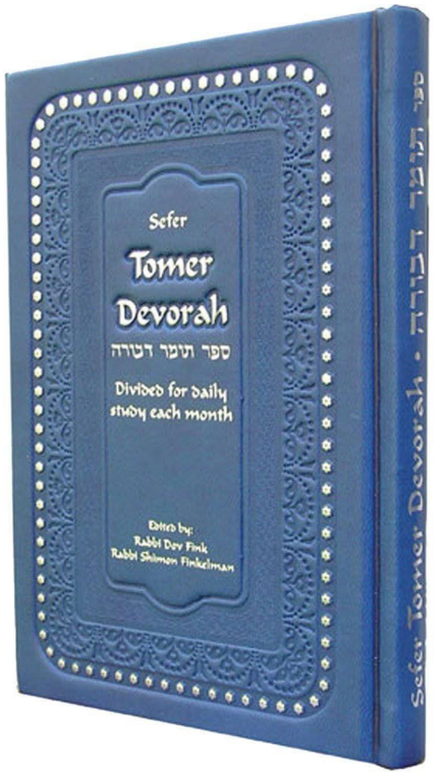
Rebecca's Nurse or *Meneket Rivkah* (מינקת רבקה) was written by Rivka Bat Meir Tiktiner (רבקה בת מאיר טיקטינר) in the mid-1500s. Not only was it the first Yiddish book to be written by a woman, it was also one of the only Mussar books written by a woman before the modern era. Get the Yiddish/English *Meneket Rivkah* translated by Frauke Von Rohden and published by the Jewish Publication Society in 2009. 360 pages.



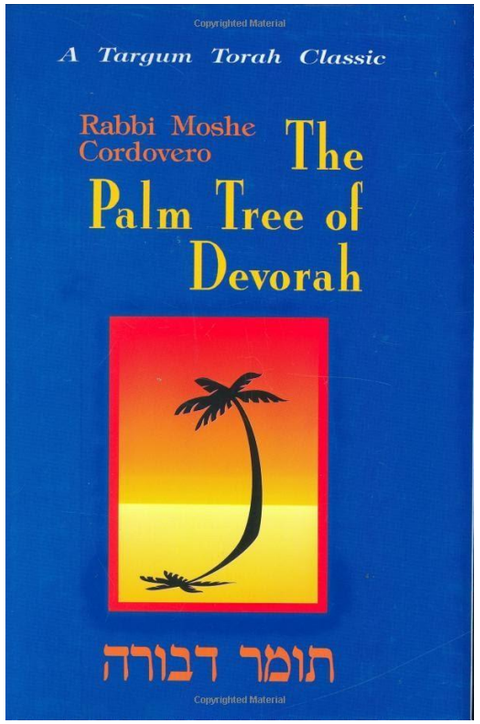
Gates of Holiness or *Sha'arei Kedusha* (שערי קדושה) is a kabbalistic Mussar work written by Rabbi Chaim Vital (חיים ויטאל) around 1575. As you can see, it's rare on Amazon so read the 2013 English translation by Rabbi Amiram Markel on Sefaria so search the ISBN or find a library copy through Worldcat. 208 pages.



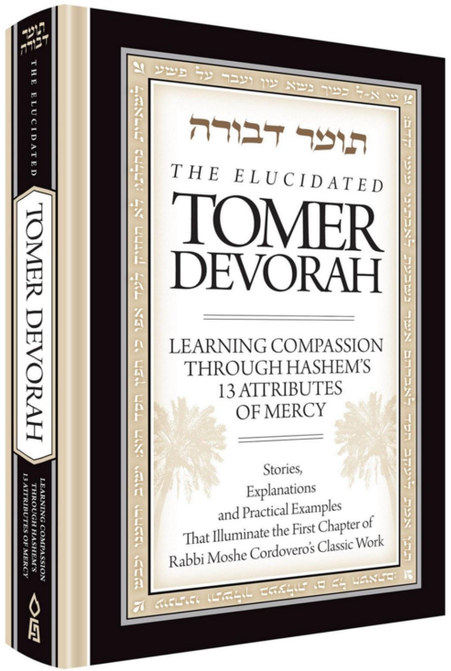
The Beginning of Wisdom or *Reshit Chochmah* (ראשית חכמה) is a kabbalistic Mussar work written by Rabbi Eliahu de Vidas (אליהו די וידאש) around 1580. As you can see here and here, it's rare on Amazon so your best bet would be to find a library copy through WorldCat. 458 pages.



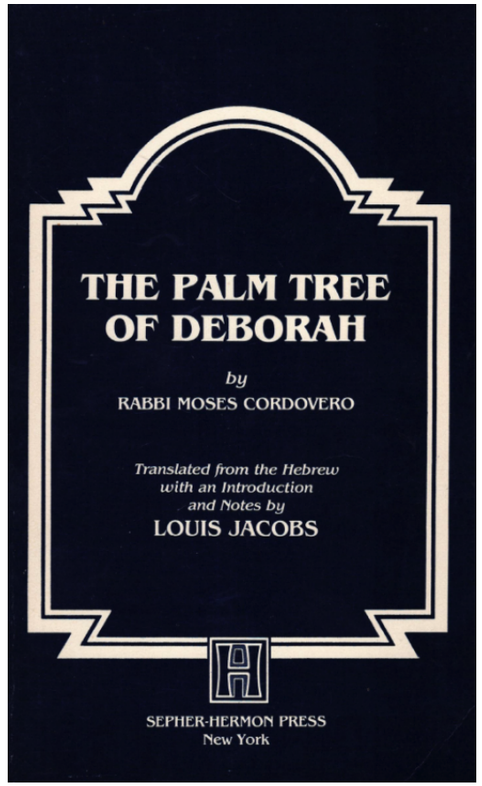
The Palm Tree of Devorah or *Tomer Devorah* (תומר דבורה) was a small kabbalistic work written by Rabbi Moses Cordovero (משה קורדובירו) around 1570 and could be included in the Top Ten for its popularity. Get this beautiful pocketsize version with imitation leather cover, divided into 30 daily readings. Translated by Rabbis Dov Fink and Shimon Finkelman. 80 pages.



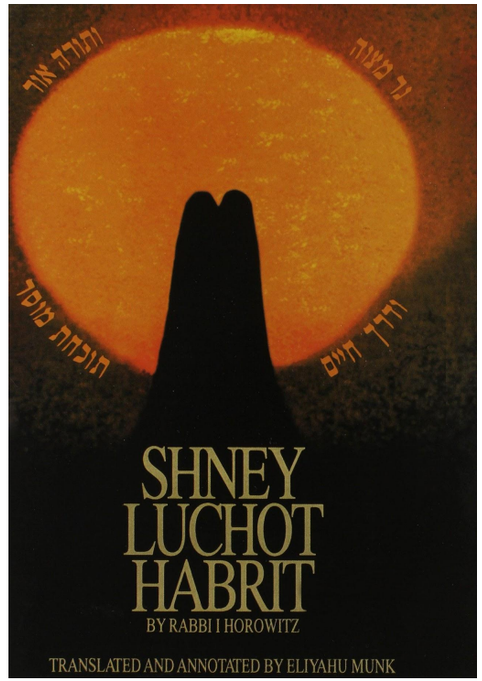
There's also Targum's 1994 Hebrew/English translation by Moshe Miller. 232 pages.


תומר דבורה
THE ELUCIDATED
TOMER DEVORAH
LEARNING COMPASSION THROUGH HASHEM'S 13 ATTRIBUTES OF MERCY
Stories, Explanations and Practical Examples That Illuminate the First Chapter of Rabbi Moshe Cordovero's Classic Work
TOMER DEVORAH

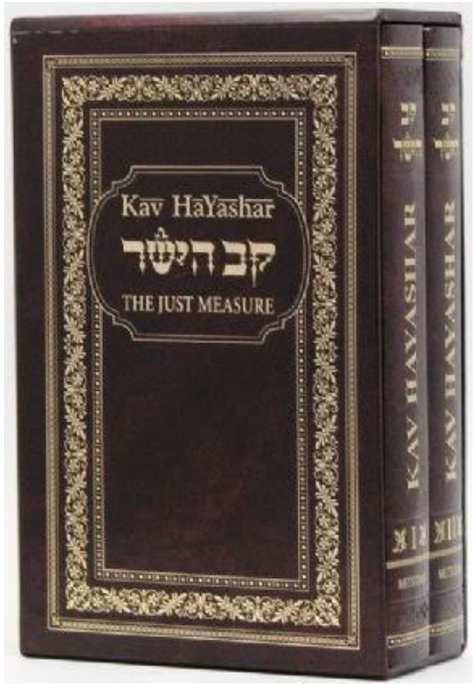
For more commentary see Feldheim's 2015 Elucidated Tomer Devorah, translated by Rabbi Shmuel Meir Riachi. 288 pages.



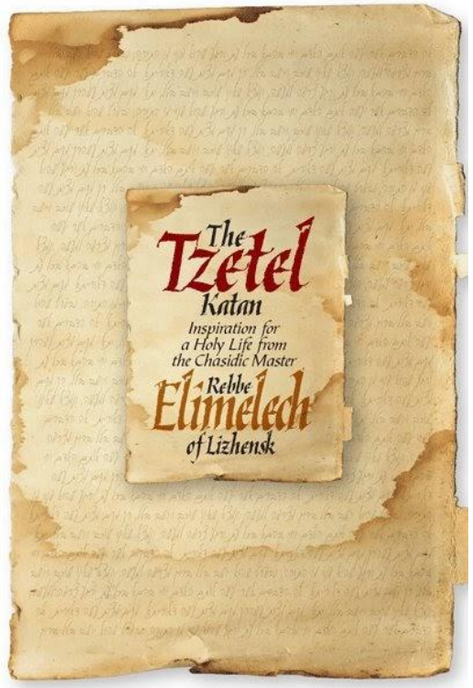
For a rare older translation there's also **The Palm Tree of Deborah** with introduction and notes by Louis Jacobs, published in 1960 and republished in 1981. 134 pages.



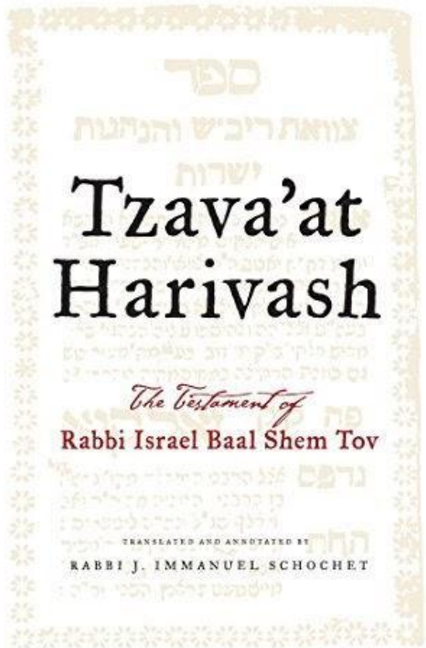
Two Tables of the Covenant or *Shney Luchot Habrit* **(שני לוחות הברית)** was written around 1630 by Rabbi Isaiah Horowitz (ישעיה הלוי הורוביץ), popularly known as the Holy Shelah (השל״ה הקדוש). The three-volume set with 1327 pages is very rare as you can see on Amazon but that same translation by Eliyahu Munk can be read on Sefaria. The WorldCat listings are confusing as to which volumes are carried and where.



The Just Measure or *Kav HaYashar* (קב הישר) is a kabbalistic Mussar book written by Rabbi Tzvi Hirsch Kaidanover (צבי הירש קאיידנובר) in 1705. Get the 2007 or 2013 editions of Metzudah's Hebrew/English Two-Volume set, translated by Avrohom Davis, or search the ISBN.

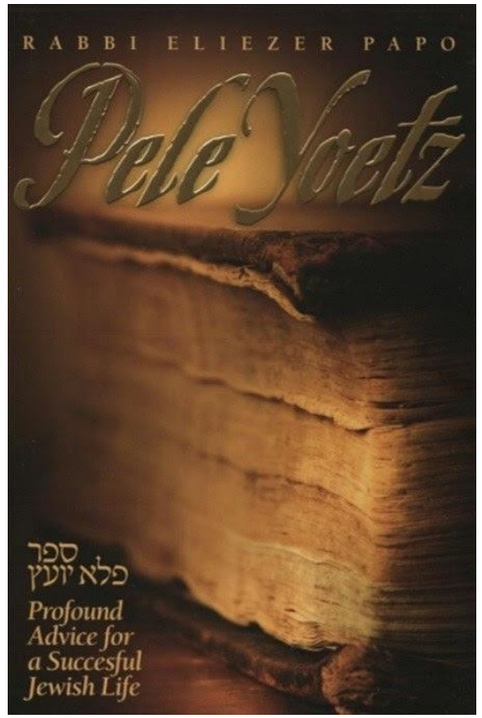


The *Tzetel Katan* (צעטיל הקטן) or Little Note is a Hasidic Mussar book written in 1750 by Rabbi Elimelech Weisblum of Lizhensk (רבי אלימלך ויסבלום). Get this beautiful edition translated by Rabbi Eliezer Shore and published by Israel Bookshop Publications in 2016. 302 pages.

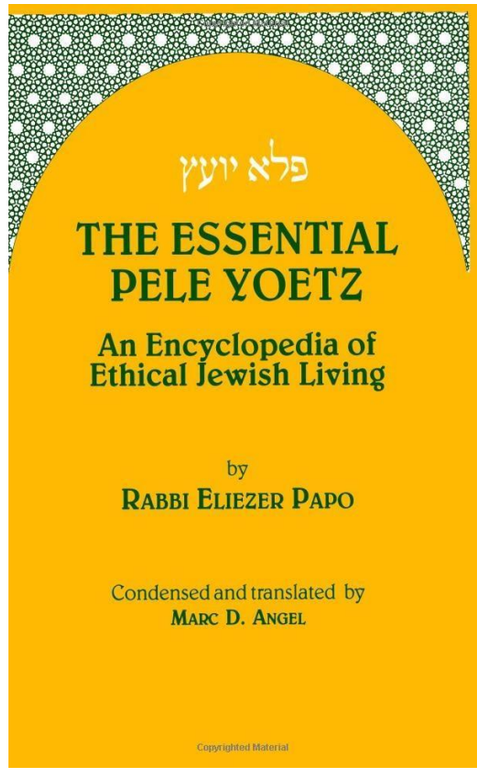


The Testament of Rabbi Israel or *Tzava'at HaRivash* (צוואת הריב״ש) is a collection of teachings from the founder of the Chasidic movement, usually called the Baal Shem Tov (בעל שם טוב) or simply the Besht (בעש״ט). Get this Chassidic Mussar book, translated by Rabbi Jacob Immanuel Schochet and published by Kehot in 1998, in hardcover or ebook. 186 pages.

The Aleph-Bet Book (ספר האלף-בית) is a collection of proverb-like sayings from Rebbi Nachman of Breslov (רבי נחמן מברסלב), an early Hassidic Rabbi. Get the 268-page 1986 edition or the updated and expanded 573-page 2015 edition, translated by Moshe Mykoff and published by the Breslov Research Institute.

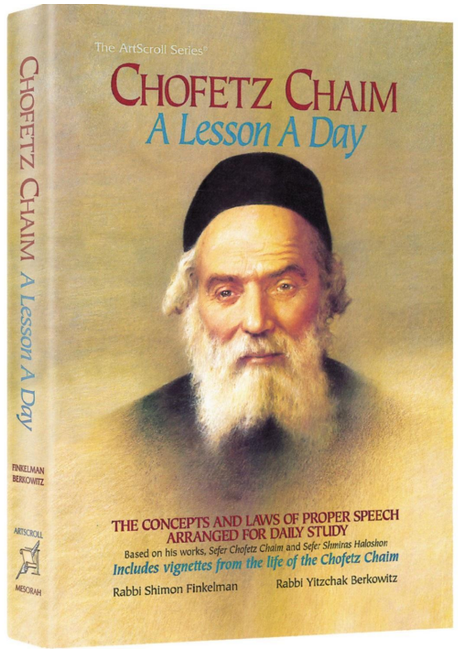


Wonderful Counsellor or *Pele Yoetz* (פלא יועץ) was written by Rabbi Eliezer Papo (רבי אליעזר פאפו) in 1824. Get the full two-volume set translated by Rabbi Shmuel Kurtz and published by Noam Eliezer in 2021. 875 pages.



There's also the smaller Essential Pele Yoetz: An Encyclopedia of Ethical Jewish Living translated by Marc Angel and published by Intellectbooks in 2008. 272 pages.

Mussar Movement Writings


The ArtScroll Series
CHOFETZ CHAIM
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THE CONCEPTS AND LAWS OF PROPER SPEECH
ARRANGED FOR DAILY STUDY
Based on his works, Sefer Chofetz Chaim and Sefer Shmiras Halashon
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Rabbi Shimon Finkelman
Rabbi Yitzchak Berkowitz
CHOFETZ CHAIM A Lesson A Day
FINKELMAN
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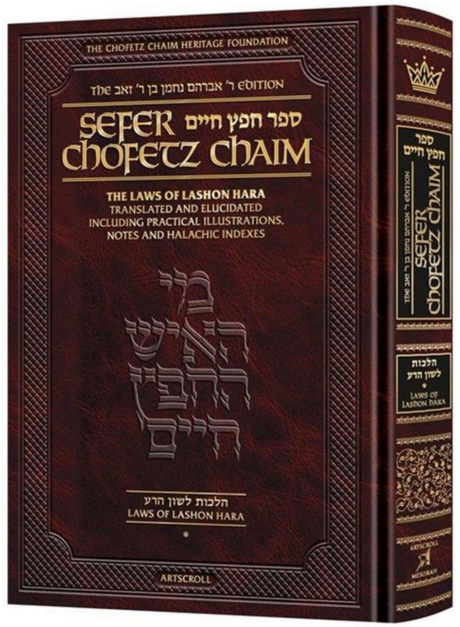
MESORAH

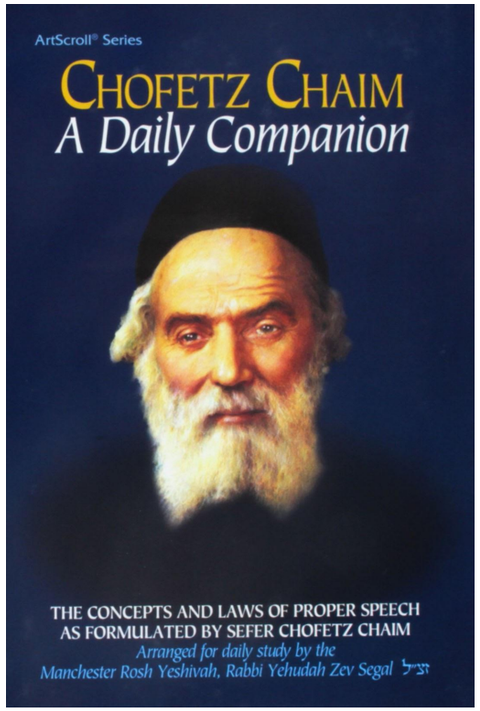


The historic Mussar movement was started by Rabbi Israel Salanter in the mid-1800s and continued strong into the 1900s. Not only did it bring personal renewal to many Jews - it birthed the Yeshiva movement and enabled traditional Judaism to survive the crises of the twentieth century and thrive on into the twenty-first. The following teachings come from several generations of Rabbi Israel Salanter's disciples and colleagues and are all, broadly speaking, writings from the historical Mussar movement (ספרי תנועת מוסר).

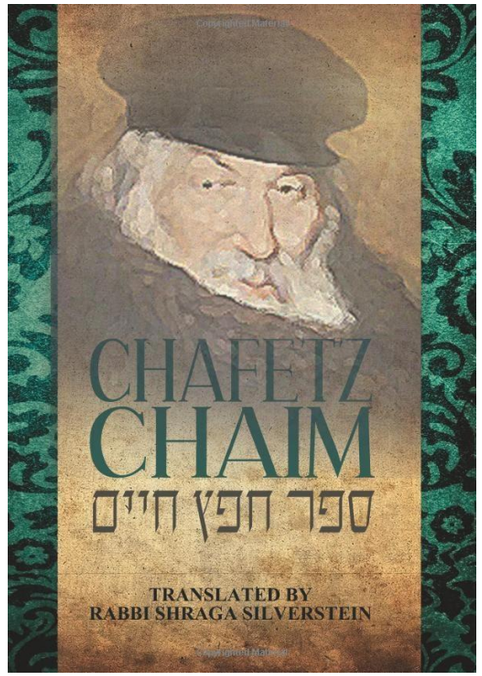
Chofetz Chaim (חפץ חיים) was written in 1873 by Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan (1838-1933) (רבי ישראל מאיר כהן, Wikipedia) about the discipline of only speaking well of others. The book became so popular that it became his nickname.

Get Chofetz Chaim, A Lesson a Day: The Concepts and Laws of Proper Speech Arranged for Daily Study edited by Rabbis Shimon Finkelman and Yitzchak Berkowitz and published by Artscroll in 1995. 456 pages. There's also this two-volume set from 1998 with the same content but more portable.

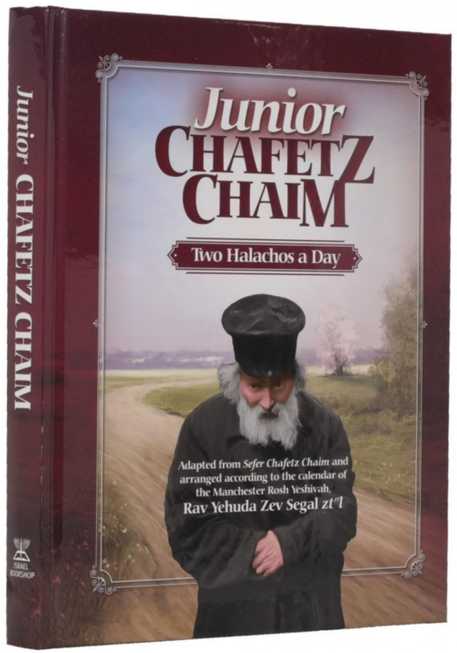
A more recent in-depth work is Artscroll's Sefer Chofetz Chaim: The Laws of Lashon Hara Translated and Elucidated Including Practical Illustrations, Notes, and Halachic Indexes, published in 2021. 448 pages. There's also the smaller Student Size.


ArtScroll® Series
CHOFETZ CHAIM
A Daily Companion
THE CONCEPTS AND LAWS OF PROPER SPEECH
AS FORMULATED BY SEFER CHOFETZ CHAIM
Arranged for daily study by the
Manchester Rosh Yeshivah, Rabbi Yehudah Zev Segal זצ"ל

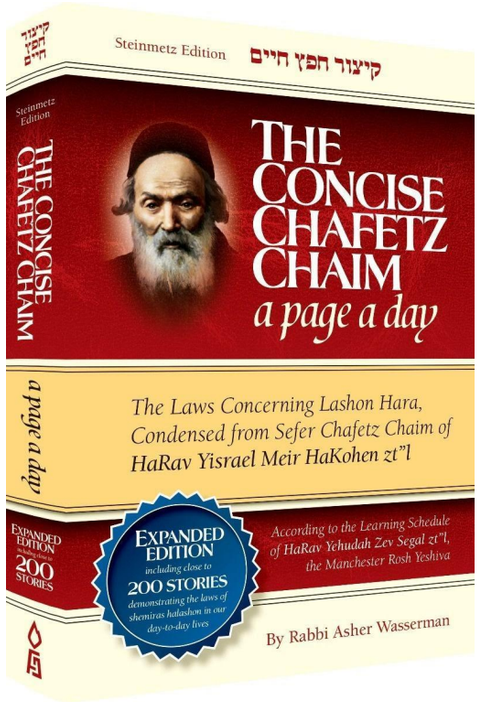
If you're looking for something a little smaller there's Artscroll's 2001 Chofetz Chaim Daily Companion: The Concepts and Laws of Proper Speech Arranged for Daily Study based on the daily reading program arranged by Rabbi Yehudah Zev Segal and edited by Michoel Rothschild. 282 pages. See also the pocketsize paperback edition from the same year and the earlier 1999 hardcover.



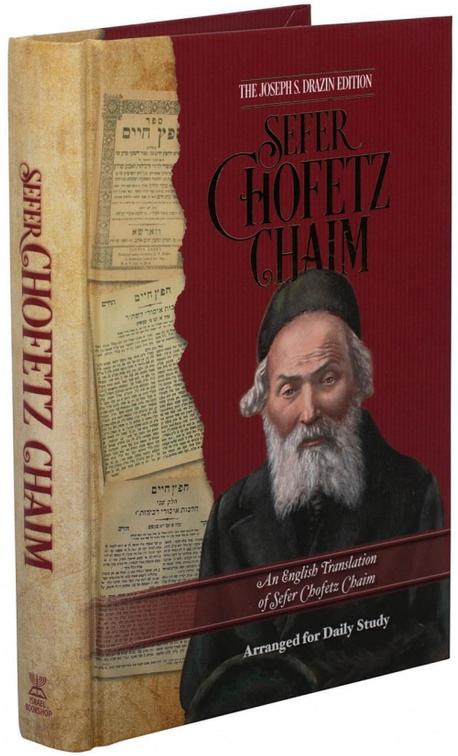
If you're looking for something even lighter there's the 2014 paperback Sefer Chafetz Chaim with a translation from the legendary Rabbi Shraga Silverstein which you can also get in weightless digital Kindle format! 106 pages.



For the children and teens in your life there's the Junior Chafetz Chaim, an easy-to-understand English adaptation of Sefer Chafetz Chaim that features callout boxes such as "Zoom In," "Good Point," "Words of Wisdom," and "Amazing Fact" and also includes "Examples" section which brings each halachah to life in a contemporary, age-appropriate story. 304 pages. Published by Israel Bookshop Publications in 2020 and then in 2022 followed up with the more comprehensive Junior Shemiras Lashon, 456 pages.

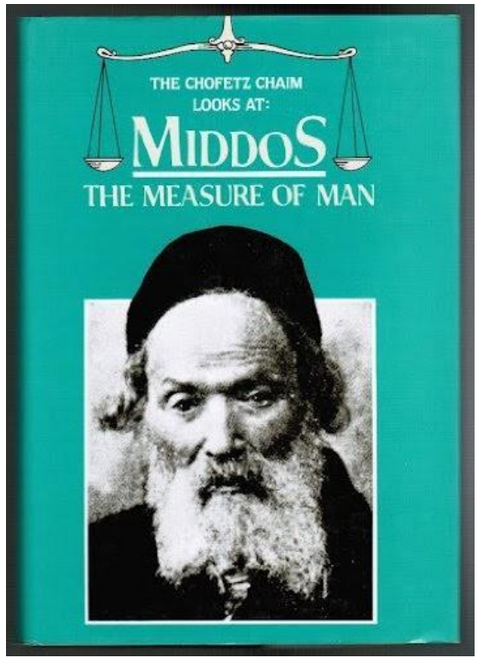

Steinmetz Edition
קיצור חפץ חיים
THE CONCISE CHAFETZ CHAIM
a page a day
The Laws Concerning Lashon Hara, Condensed from Sefer Chafetz Chaim of HaRav Yisrael Meir HaKohen zt"l
EXPANDED EDITION
including close to 200 STORIES
demonstrating the laws of shemiras halashon in our day-to-day lives
According to the Learning Schedule of HaRav Yehudah Zev Segal zt"l, the Manchester Rosh Yeshiva
By Rabbi Asher Wasserman

If you like stories there's [The Concise Chafetz Chaim: A Page a Day Expanded Edition] which includes close to 200 stories illustrating the laws about being mindful of one's speech, written by Rabbi Asher Wasserman and published by Feldheim in 2022. 288 pages. There's also the original [Concise Chafetz Chaim: A Page a Day] from 2013 without the stories. 164 pages.

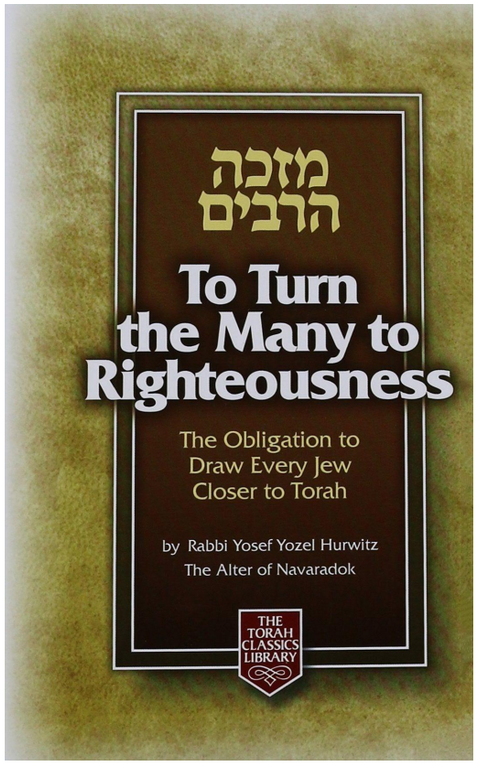

THE JOSEPH S. DRAZIN EDITION
SEFER CHOFETZ CHAIM
An English Translation of Sefer Chofetz Chaim
Arranged for Daily Study

There's also the [Sefer Chofetz Chaim: Arranged for Daily Study] published by the Israel Book Shop in 2015 and the 2017 [Pocketsize Edition]. 304 pages.

And last and possibly best, 2006 Mazal Press came out with the two-volume [Chafetz Chayim: Sefer Shemirat HaLashon] (Book of Guarding the Tongue), translated by Yedidya Levy and distributed by Felheim Publishers Jerusalem. In 2008 they came out with this four-volume set of [Sefer Chafetz Chayim] which covered not only the Halachot (laws) of Esurei Lashon Hara & Rechilut (forbidden negative speech and gossip) but also included the classic Makor Hachayim and Be'er Mayim Chayim Commentaries. These excellent works can be read online free along with the Chafetz Chaim's other works on the [Mazal Press website].

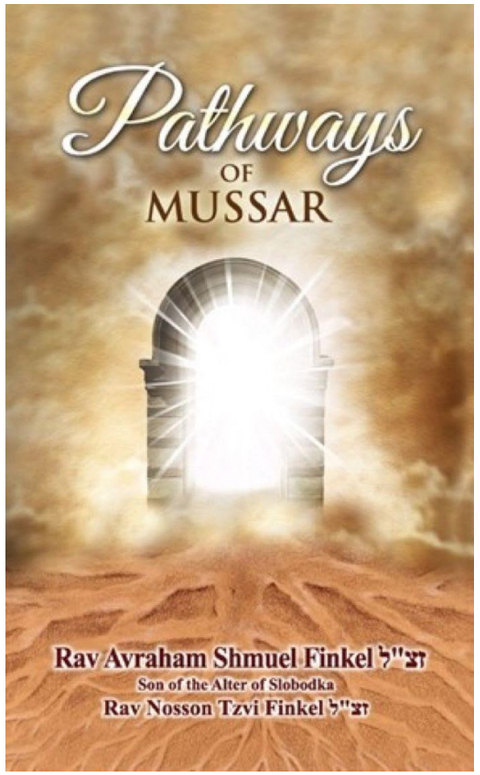


The Chafetz Chaim Looks at Middos, The Measure of Man is a collection of the Mussar writings of Rabbi Israel Meir Kagan about middot or character qualities, translated by Raphael Blumberg in 1987. Get it on Amazon or use WorldCat to find a library copy. 381 pages.

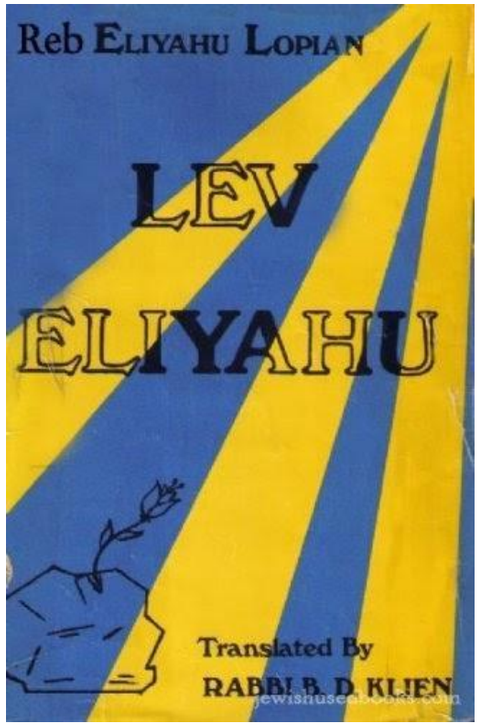

מזכה הרבים
To Turn the Many to Righteousness
The Obligation to Draw Every Jew Closer to Torah
by Rabbi Yosef Yozel Hurwitz
The Alter of Navaradok
THE TORAH CLASSICS LIBRARY

To Turn the Many to Righteousness or *Mezake Harabim* (מזכה את הרבים) is a chapter from *Madregat Ha'Adam* (מדרגת האדם) which was written at the height of the Mussar movement by Yosef Yozel Horwitz (יוסף יוזל הורוביץ, Wikipedia) (1847-1919), the famous *Alter* or Elder of Novardok.

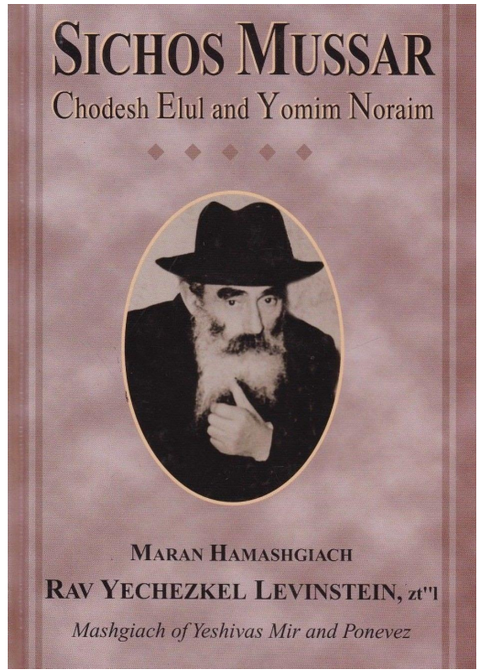
Get the only English translation by Shraga Silverstein, published by Feldheim in 1987. 103 pages.



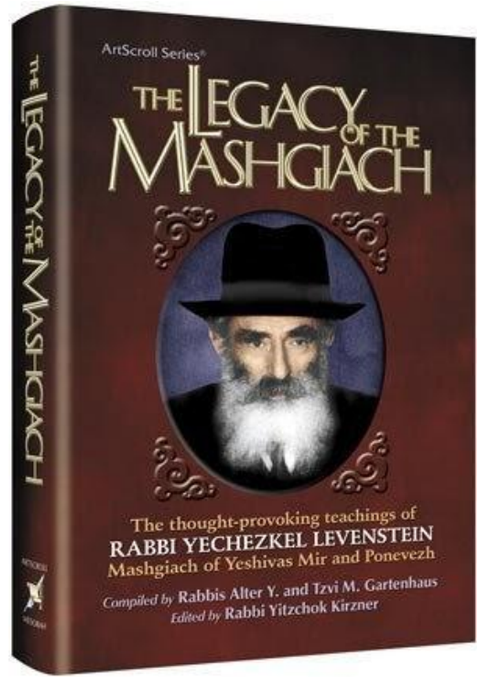
Pathways of Mussar is a translation of *Nesivos HaMussar* by Rav Avrohom Shmuel Finkel (1879-1951), the son of the great Alter of Slabodka Rabbi Nosson Tzvi Finkel (1849-1927) (נתן צבי פינקל, Wikipedia). Published by Feldheim in 2016, 256 pages. Get it here.



***Lev Eliyahu* or Heart of Elijah** is a collection of transcribed talks by Reb Elyah Lopian ((אליהו לופיאן 1876-1970), Wikipedia). Look for the rare 1975 and 1989 editions on Amazon or find a library copy through Worldcat here or here. 330 pages.



***Sichos Mussar* or Mussar Meditations** are a collection of talks by Rav Yechezkel Levinstein (1885-1974, Wikipedia) about the Yomim Noraim or High Holydays and Elul, the Jewish month leading up to it. 85 pages. If not on Amazon try this search. It appears the next book contains this content also.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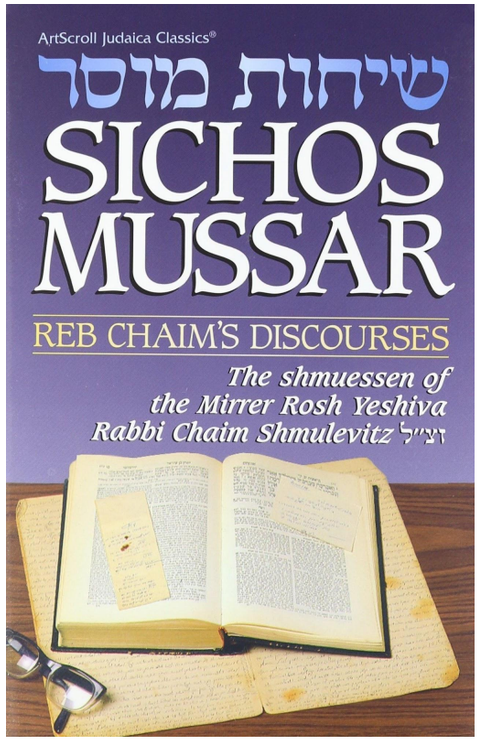
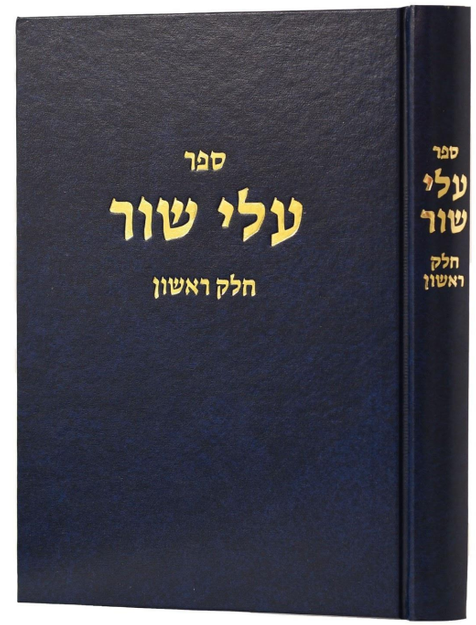
The thought-provoking teachings of
RABBI YECHEZKEL LEVENSTEIN
Mashgiach of Yeshivas Mir and Ponevezh
Compiled by Rabbis Alter Y. and Tzvi M. Gartenhaus
Edited by Rabbi Yitzchok Kirzner

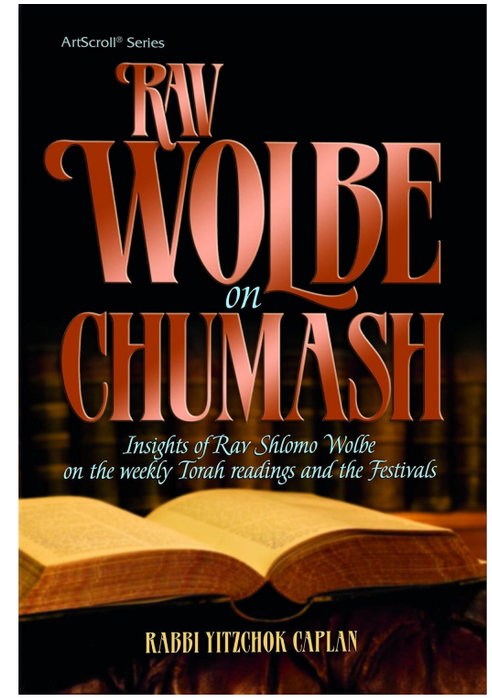
Legacy of the Mashiach is a collection of the teachings of Rabbi Yechezkel Levenstein, the *Mashgiach Ruchani* or Spiritual Guide of the great Mir Yeshiva from Belarus, through Japan and China, and finally to Jerusalem. Published by Artscroll in 2009. Get it here.



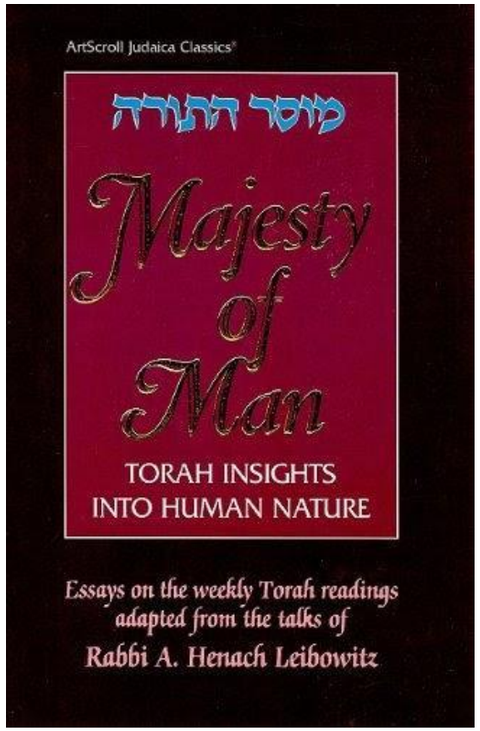
***Sichos Mussar*: Reb Chaim's Discourses** is a collection of the *shmuessen* or Mussar talks of Rabbi Chaim Shmulevitz (1902-1979) (חיים לייב שמואלביץ, Wikipedia), Rosh Yeshiva to the great Mir Yeshiva from Poland through China to Jerusalem. Published by Artscroll in 1989. 272 pages. Get it here.



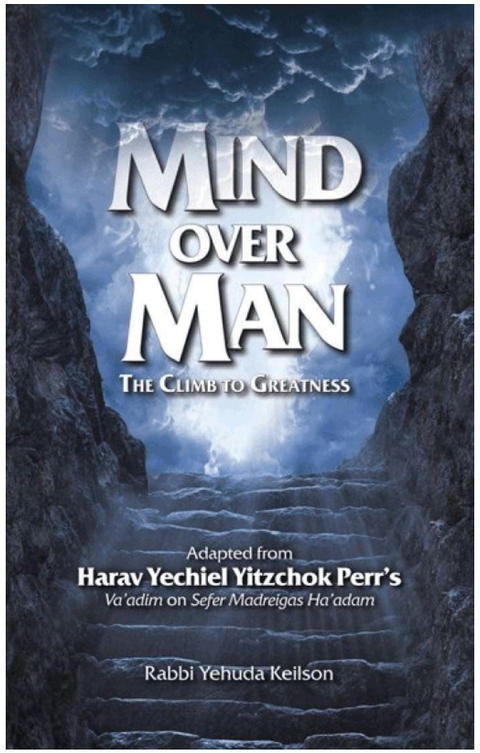
Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe (1914-2005, Wikipedia) was one of the greatest *Ba'alei Mussar* or Mussar masters of his generation and wrote *Alei Shur* (עלי שור/On the Wall), one of the best Mussar books to never be translated. The good news is that Rabbis Yoram Bogacz and Eliyahu Reingold did a set of English audio lectures on the two volumes of Alei Shur which you can listen to here.



Even though Rabbi Shlomo Wolbe's greatest work has never been translated into English (see above), at least some of his teachings are translated and organized according to the weekly Torah readings in **Rav Wolbe on Chumash**. Get Volume 1 (432 pages) and Volume 2 (456 pages), published by Artscroll in 2014 and 2016.

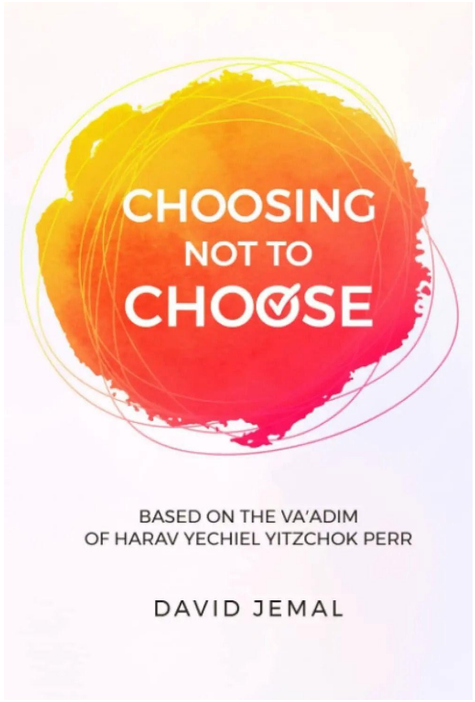

ArtScroll Judaica Classics
מוסר התורה
Majesty of Man
TORAH INSIGHTS INTO HUMAN NATURE
Essays on the weekly Torah readings adapted from the talks of
Rabbi A. Henach Leibowitz

Majesty of Man: Torah Insights Into Human Nature were taken from the talks of Rabbi Henach Leibowitz (1918-2008, Wikipedia) and published by Artscroll as part of their Judaica Classics series in 1992. 284 pages. Get it here.

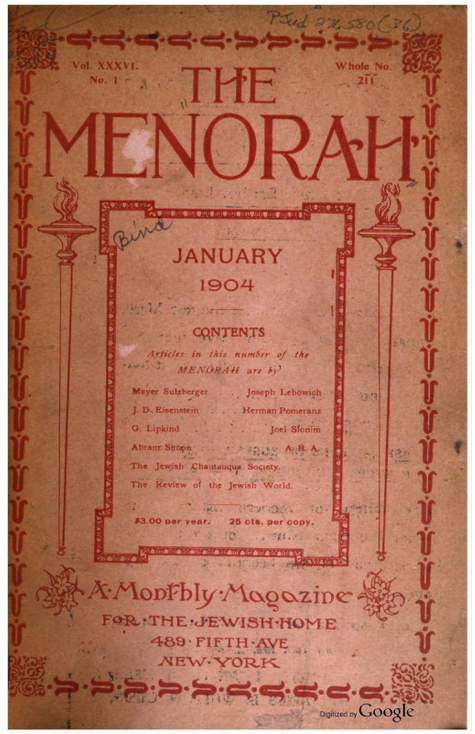


Mind Over Man: The Climb To Greatness. Rav Yechiel Yitzchok Perr (born 1935, Wikipedia) is a living link to the pre-war Mussar movement - grandson of Avraham Yoffen (1887-1970, Wikipedia), son-in-law of the legendary Yehuda Leib Nekritz (1907-1984, Wikipedia), and disciple of Aharon Kotler (1891-1962, Wikipedia). This book is a collection of his talks on the untranslated *Madregat Ha'Adam* by the Alter of Novardok, transcribed by Rabbi Yehuda Keilson and published 2017. 352 pages. Get it here.

Faith Over Fear: A Path To Bitachon. See previous book for information on Rabbi Yechiel Yitzchak Perr, a living link to the original Mussar movement. This book is a second collection of his talks on *Madregat Ha'Adam*, transcribed by Rabbi Yehuda Keilson and published 2019. 366 pages. Get it here.



Mussar Movement History

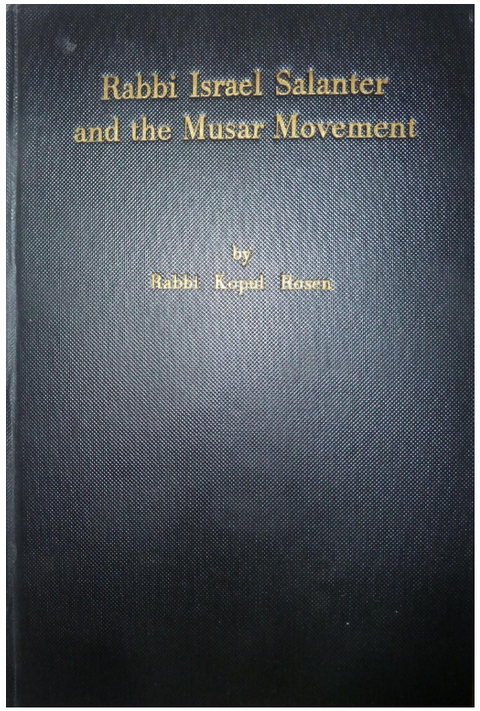


Choosing Not To Choose is based on the talks of Harav Yechiel Yitzchok Perr on *Tekufos Ha'Ola*, the first section of the classic Mussar work *Madreigas Ha'Adam*. Written by David Jemal and published by Tzidkus Press in 2022. 264 pages. Get it here.

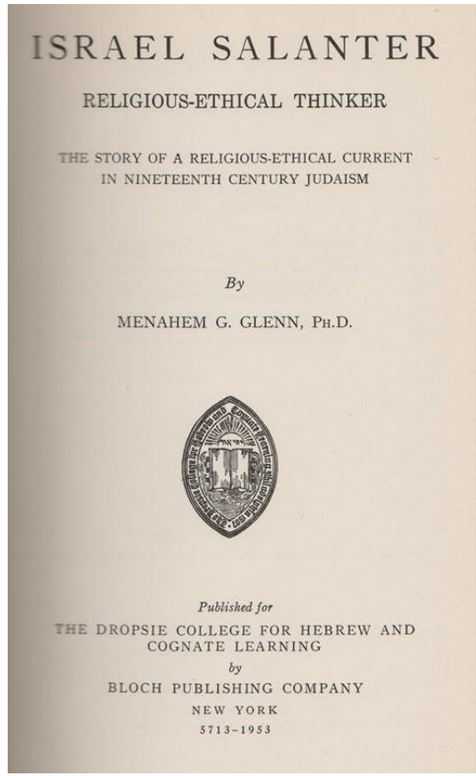
The nineteenth-century Mussar movement inspired by Rabbi Israel Salanter didn't just revitalize the Eastern European Jewish world - it saved traditional Judaism. This is the story of the Mussar movement (היסטוריית תנועת המוסר) as told through the following biographies of Rabbi Israel, his closest followers, and the generations of disciples that came after them.

The Moralist Movement in Russia by Professor Louis Ginsberg first appeared in the January 1904 edition of The Menorah and can be read in PDF here.

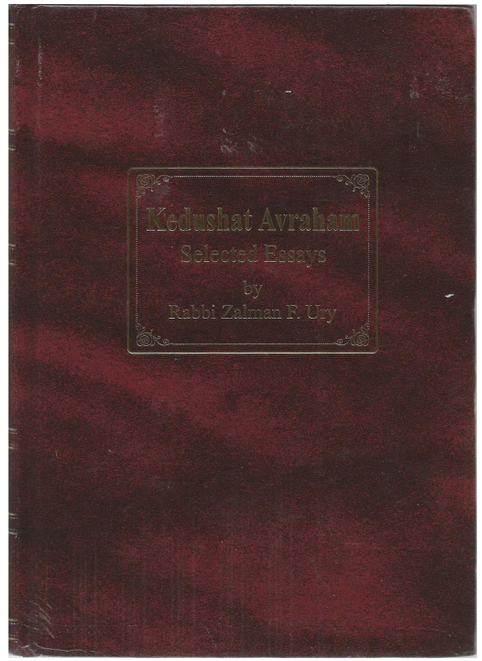
An expanded version of this article appeared in his 1928 book 'Students, Scholars, and Saints' and can be seen here.



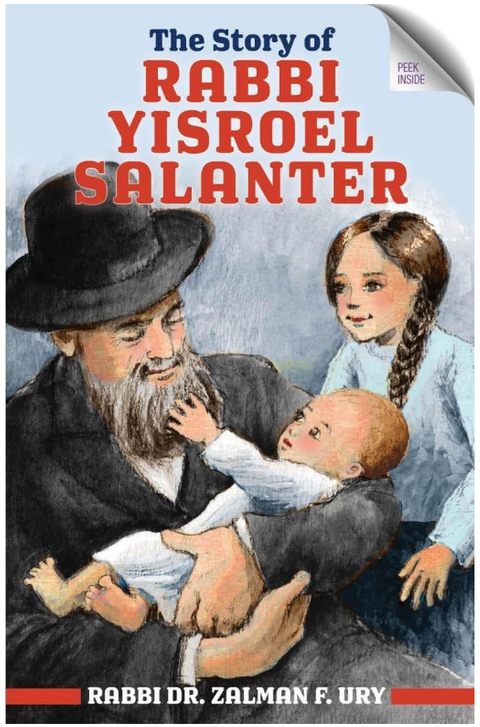
Rabbi Israel Salanter and the Musar Movement, written by Rabbi Kopul Rosen in 1945, is one of the first biographies of Rabbi Yisrael ben Ze'ev Wolf Lipkin of Salant (1809-1883) (רבי ישראל ליפקין מסַלַנְט, Wikipedia). 116 pages. Get it on Amazon or try this search or finding a library copy through Worldcat.



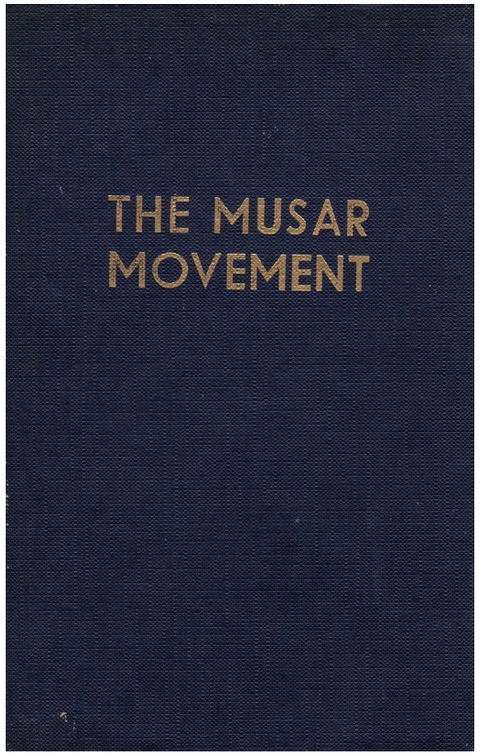
Israel Salanter: The Story of a Religious-Ethical Current in Nineteenth Century Judaism was written by Menahem Glenn, originally published in 1953 by Bloch Publishing for Dropsie College, and republished in 2005 by Yashar Books. 219 pages.



The Musar Movement: A Quest for Excellence in Character Education by Rabbi Zalman Ury was originally published by Yeshiva University Press in 1970. It was republished in 2001 as **Kedushat Avraham, Selected Essays** and included two earlier 1968 articles by Ury: **'Bridging the Gap between Ethical Theory and Conduct'** and **'The Legacy of Rav Yisrael Salanter'**. Get it on Amazon or download a pdf with these three articles.



The Story of Rabbi Yisroel Salanter was written by Rabbi Zalman Ury in 1971 and republished with illustrations in 2017 by Mosaica Press. 96 pages. Get it here.

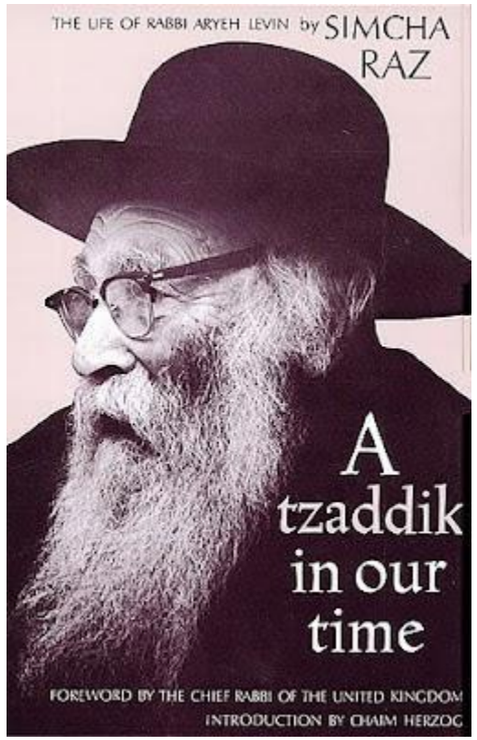


The Musar Movement: its History, Leading Personalities and Doctrines is a 1975 translation by Leonard Oschry of the first two volumes of the often-cited five-volume history of the Mussar movement, ***Tenuat HaMusar*** **(תנועת המוסר)** by Rabbi Dov Katz (הרב דב כ"ץ). If there are no copies on Amazon we recommend finding a library copy through WorldCat.

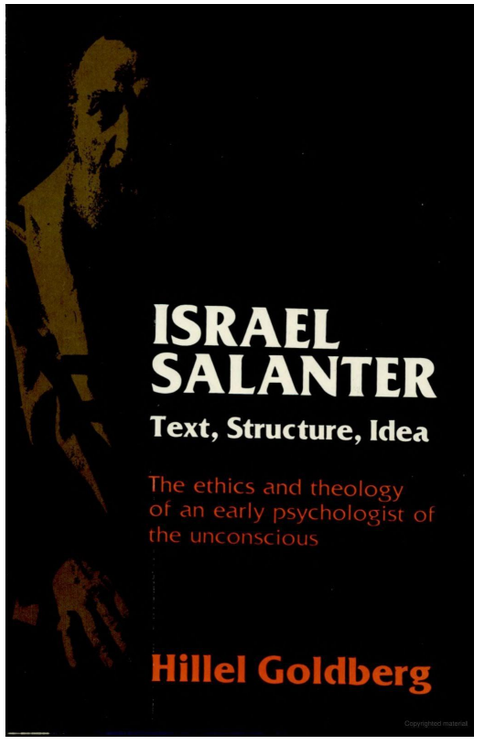
The History of the Musar Movement 1840-1945 was written by Lester Samuel Eckman and published by Shengold in 1975. 174 pages. Get it here.

No image available

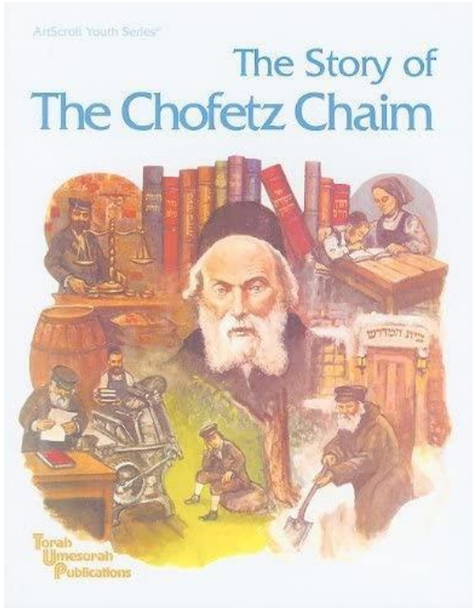
Teachings of the Fathers of the Musar Movement was written by Lester Samuel Eckman and published by Shengold in 1975. 134 pages. Get it on Amazon or find a library copy through WorldCat.


THE LIFE OF RABBI ARYEH LEVIN by SIMCHA RAZ
A tzaddik in our time
FOREWORD BY THE CHIEF RABBI OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
INTRODUCTION BY CHAIM HERZOG

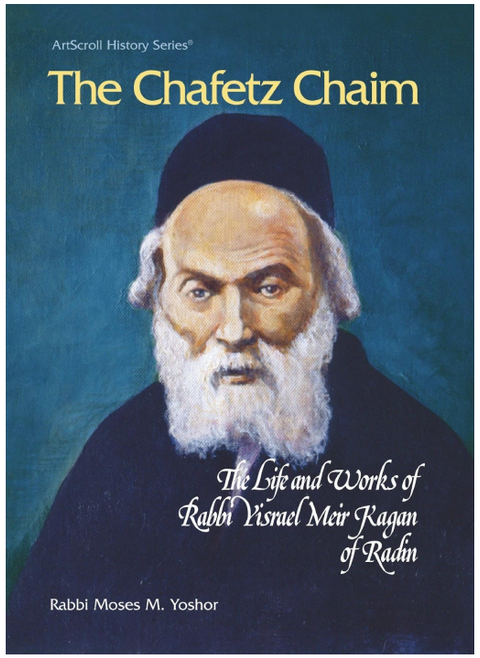
A Tzaddik in Our Time: The Life of Rabbi Aryeh Levin was written by Simcha Raz about the saintly *Mashgiach* of the Etz Chaim Yeshiva in Jerusalem (אריה לוין, 1885-1969) (Wikipedia) and published by Feldheim in 1976, 1978 (both 468 pages), and 2008 (512 pages).


ISRAEL SALANTER
Text, Structure, Idea
The ethics and theology of an early psychologist of the unconscious
Hillel Goldberg

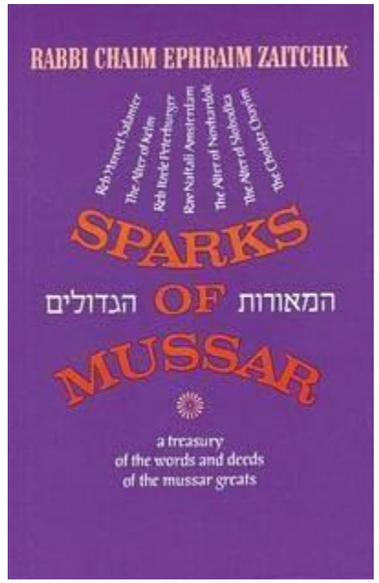
Israel Salanter, Text, Structure, Idea: The Ethics and Theology of an Early Psychologist of the Unconscious was written by Hillel Goldberg and published by Ktav in 1982. 358 pages. Get it on Amazon or find a library copy through Worldcat. Four years earlier Goldberg wrote his Dissertation 'Rabbi Israel Salanter: A Study Of His Works' which can also be found through Worldcat.



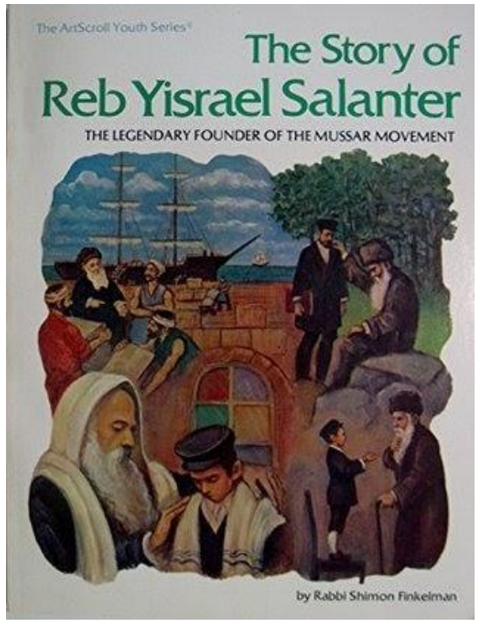
The Story of The Chofetz Chaim came out in 1983 as part of Artscroll's Youth Series, written by Eliezer Gevirtz and illustrated by Yosef Dershowitz. 158 pages. Get it here.



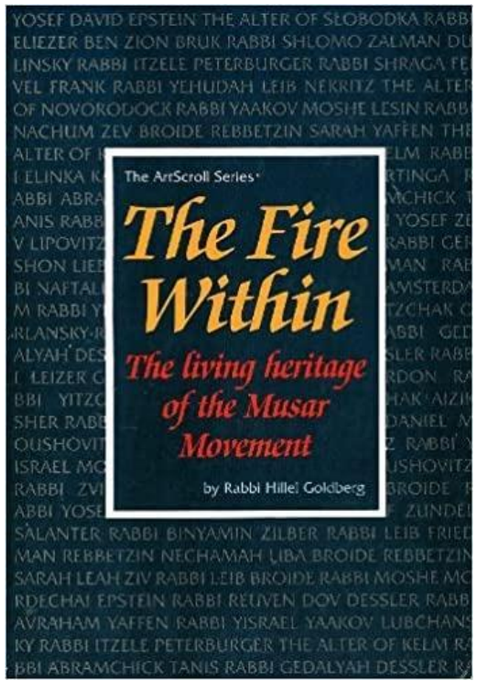
The Chafetz Chaim: The Life and Works of Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan of Radin was written by Moses Yoshor and published by Artscroll as part of their History Series in 1984 and again in 1986 and 2010. 603 pages.



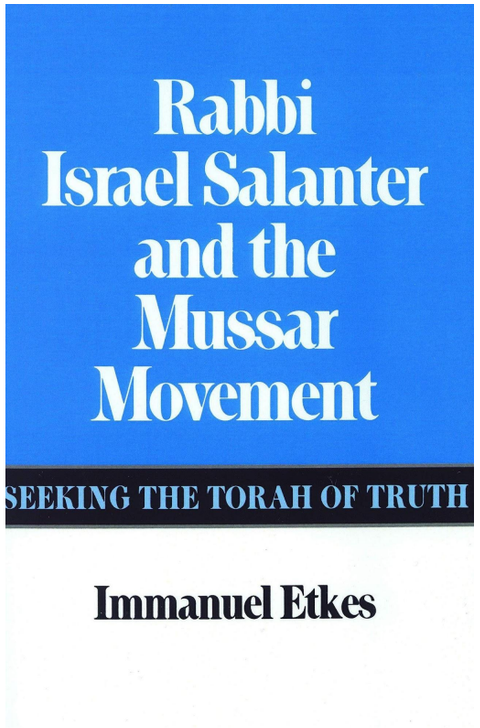
Sparks of Mussar: a Treasury of Words and Deeds of the Mussar Greats was written by Chaim Ephraim Zaitchek and published by Feldheim in 1985, 1994, and again in 2014. 260 pages.


The ArtScroll Youth Series
The Story of
Reb Yisrael Salanter
THE LEGENDARY FOUNDER OF THE MUSSAR MOVEMENT
by Rabbi Shimon Finkelman

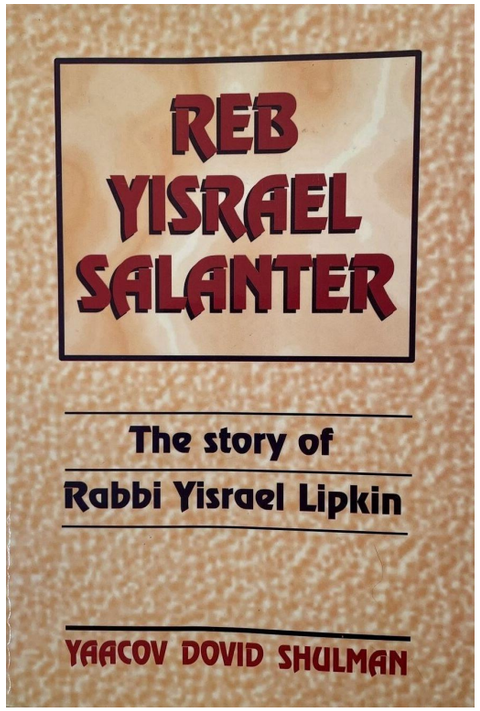
The Story of Reb Yisrael Salanter: The Legendary Founder of the Mussar Movement was written by Shimon Finkelman and illustrated by Yosef Dershowitz as part of the Artscroll Youth Series in 1986. 96 pages. Get it here.



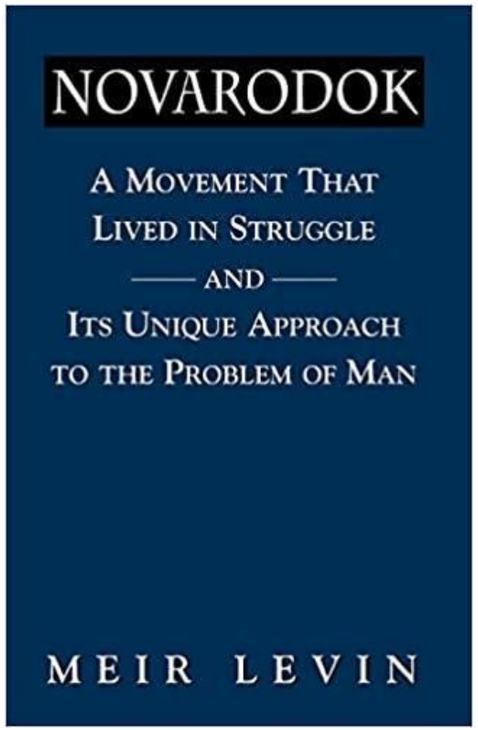
The Fire Within: The Living Heritage of the Musar Movement was written by Hillel Goldberg and published by Artscroll in 1987. 194 pages. Get it in hardcover or paperback.



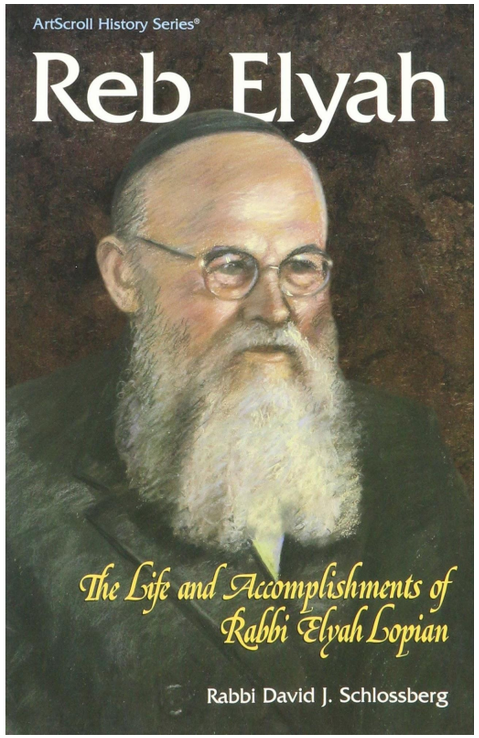
Rabbi Israel Salanter and the Mussar Movement: Seeking the Torah of Truth was written by Immanuel Etkes and published by the Jewish Publication Society in 1993. 404 pages. Get it here.



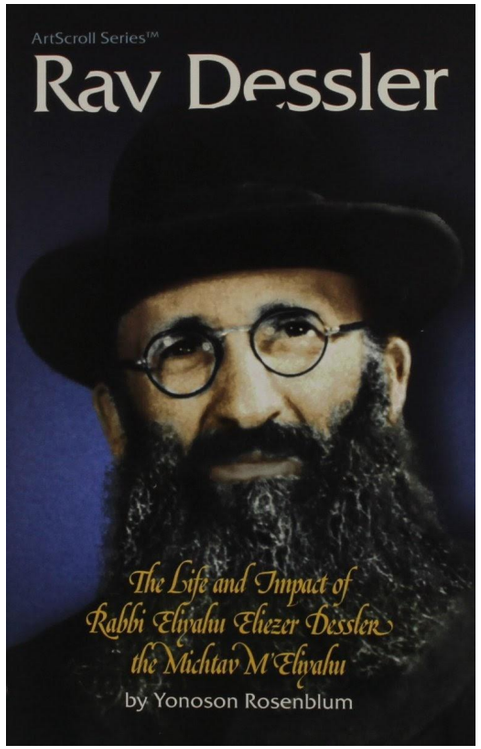
Reb Yisrael Salanter: The Story of Rabbi Yisrael Lipkin was written by Yaacov Dovid Shulman and published by CIS Publishing in 1995 as part of their Biography Series. Get it here (191 pages) or listen to the audiobook version (7:16 hours).



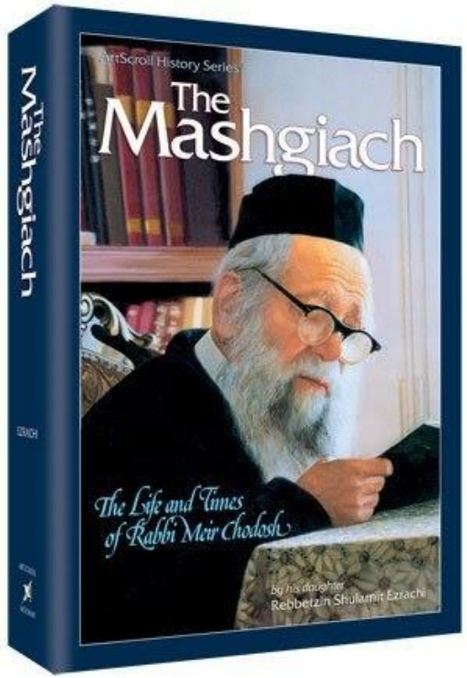
Novarodok: A Movement That Lived in Struggle and Its Unique Approach to the Problem of Man was written by Meir Levin and published by Jason Aronson in 1996. 214 pages. Get it here.



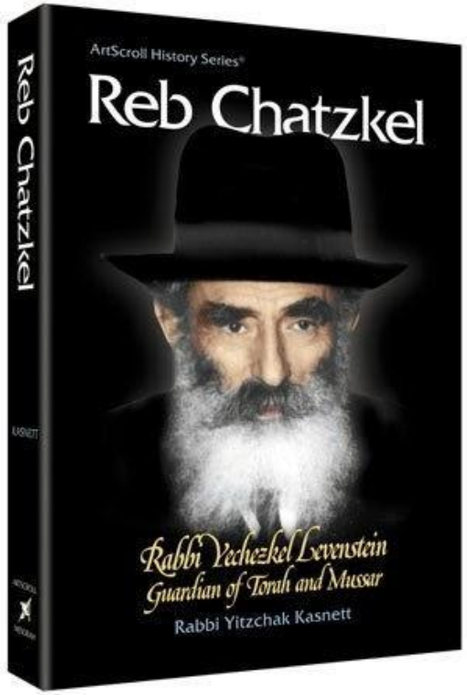
Reb Elyah: The Life and Accomplishments of Rabbi Elyah Lopian (1876-1970, Wikipedia) was written by Rabbi David J. Schlossberg and published by Artscroll as part of their History Series in 1999. 296 pages. Get it here.



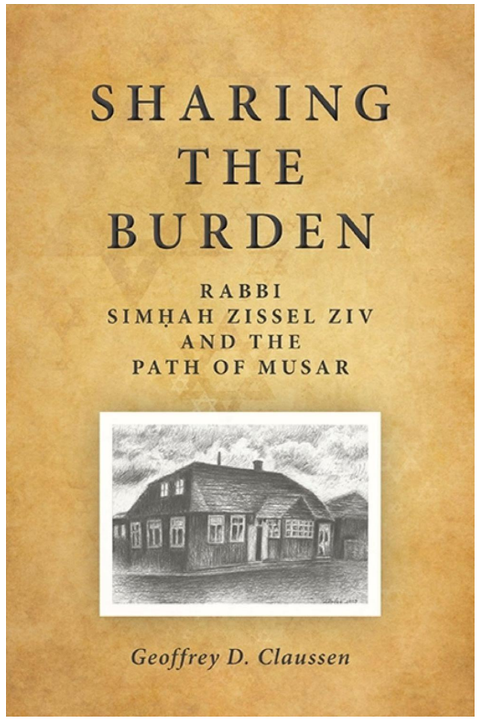
Rav Dessler: The Life and Impact of Rabbi Eliyahu Eliezer Dessler, the Michtav m'Eliyahu was written by Yonosan Rosenblum and published by Artscroll in 2000 as part of their History Series. 371 pages. Get it here.



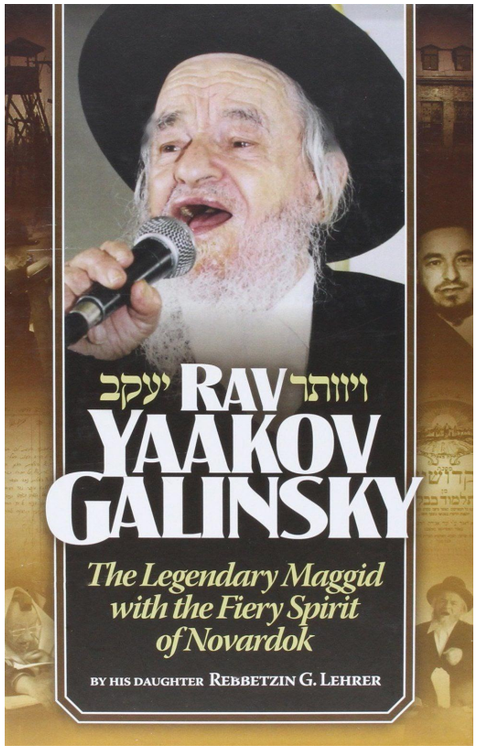
The Mashgiach: The Life and Times of Meir Chodosh was written by Rebbetzin Shulamit Ezrachi about her father Meir Chadash, the great *Mashgiach Ruchani* or Spiritual Guide of the Hevron Yeshiva (1898-1989, Wikipedia). Published by Artscroll in 2006. 689 pages. Get it here.



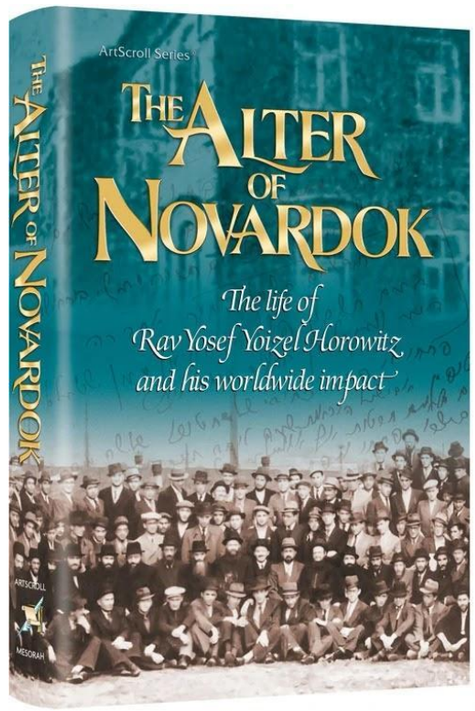
Reb Chatzkel, Guardian of Torah and Mussar was written by Rabbi Yitzchak Kasnett about Yechezkel Levenstein (1885-1974, Wikipedia), the Mashgiach of the great Mir Yeshiva, and published by Artscroll as part of their History Series in 2007. 394 pages. Get it here.



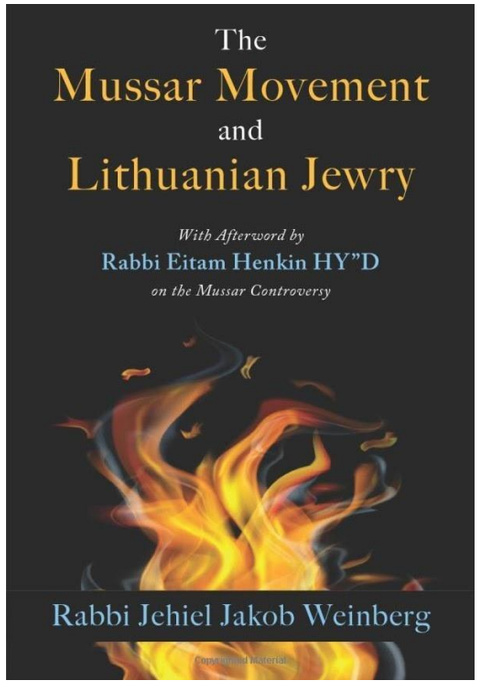
Sharing the Burden: Rabbi Simhah Zissel Ziv and the Path of Musar was written by Geoffrey Claussen about the great Alter of Kelm Simcha Zissel Ziv (שמחה זיסל 1824-1898) (זיו, Wikipedia), author of one of the greatest Mussar books yet to be translated - Chochmah u'Mussar (חכמה ומוסר). Published by the State University of New York Press in 2016. 260 pages. Get it here.



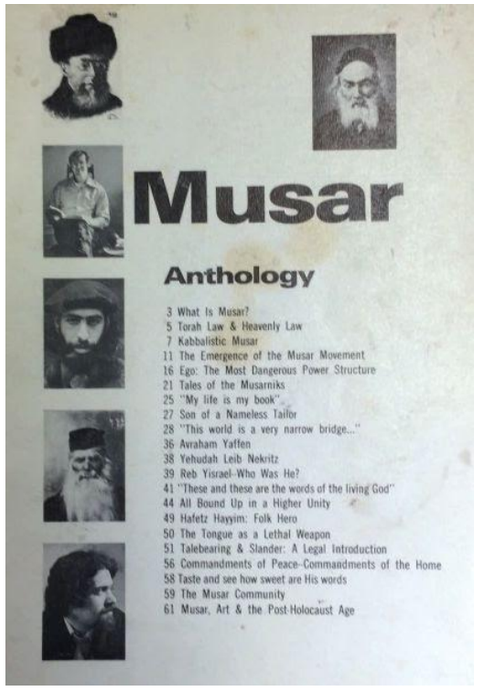
Rav Yaakov Galinsky: The Legendary Maggid with the Fiery Spirit of Novardok was written by Rebbetzin G. Lehrer about her father Yaakov Galinksy (1920-2014, Wikipedia) one of the last from the old world of the Novardok Yeshiva. Published by Feldheim in 2016, 384 pages. Get it here.



The Alter of Novardok: The Life of Rav Yosef Yoizel Horowitz and his Worldwide Impact was written by Rabbi Shlomo Weintraub about the famous Alter of Novardok, Yosef Yozel Hurwitz ((יוסף יוזל הורוביץ 1847-1919), Wikipedia), and published by Feldheim in 2020. 422 pages. Get it here.



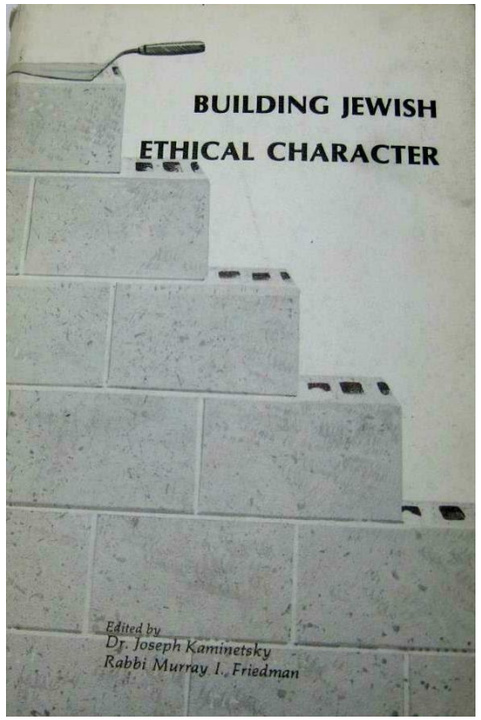
Modern Mussar Books


Musar
Anthology
3 What Is Musar?
5 Torah Law & Heavenly Law
7 Kabbalistic Musar
11 The Emergence of the Musar Movement
16 Ego: The Most Dangerous Power Structure
21 Tales of the Musarniks
25 "My life is my book"
27 Son of a Nameless Tailor
28 "This world is a very narrow bridge..."
36 Avraham Yaffen
38 Yehudah Leib Nekritz
39 Reb Yisrael-Who Was He?
41 "These and these are the words of the living God"
44 All Bound Up in a Higher Unity
49 Hafetz Hayyim: Folk Hero
50 The Tongue as a Lethal Weapon
51 Talebearing & Slander: A Legal Introduction
56 Commandments of Peace-Commandments of the Home
58 Taste and see how sweet are His words
59 The Musar Community
61 Musar, Art & the Post-Holocaust Age

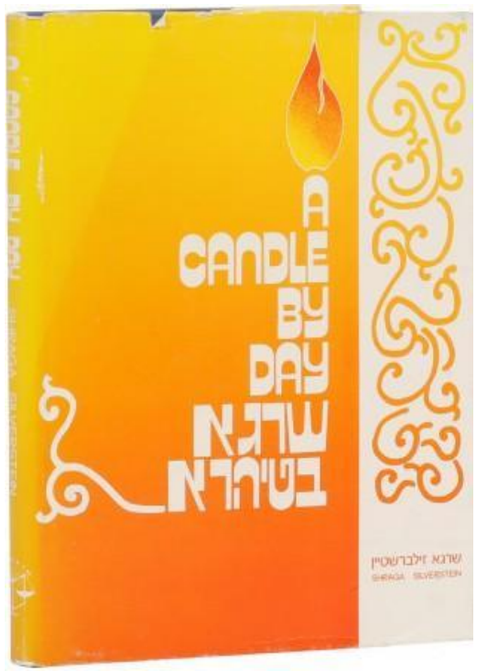
The 'Mussar' Movement and Lithuanian Jewry is a reprint from Rabbi Jehiel Jakob (Yechiel Yakov) Weinburg (1884-1966, Wikipedia) with an afterword on the "Mussar Controversy" by Rabbi Eitam Henkin. Edited by Elijah J. Schochet and Menachem Butler and published by Shokey Press in 2022. 110 pages. Get it here.

The modern era of Mussar literature (ספרי מוסר מודרניים) began somewhere between the late 1940s and the 70s. The Mussar Masters from the old world were slowly taking their leave and it was up to a new generation to preserve their works and memories while at the same time finding their own Mussar paths...which brings us to the present, and to you.

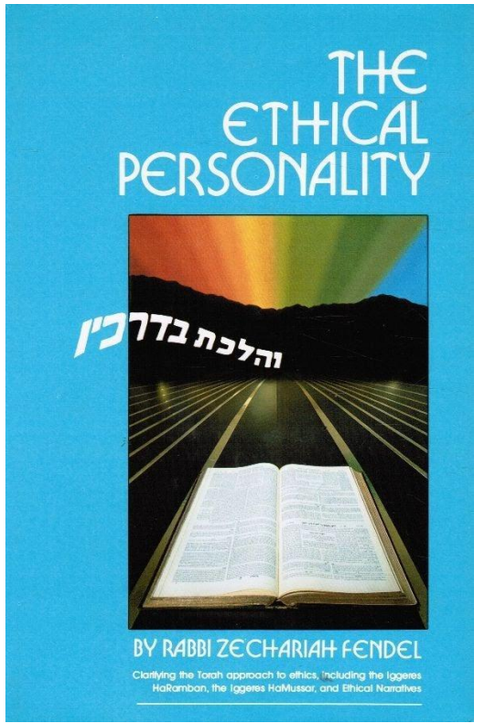
This Musar Anthology was compiled in 1972 by Hillel Goldberg, one of the foremost modern Mussar revivalists. This little 64-page magazine is a perfect snapshot of a new generation making Mussar their own, as pictured in this book review. Rare on Amazon but library copies can be found through Worldcat.



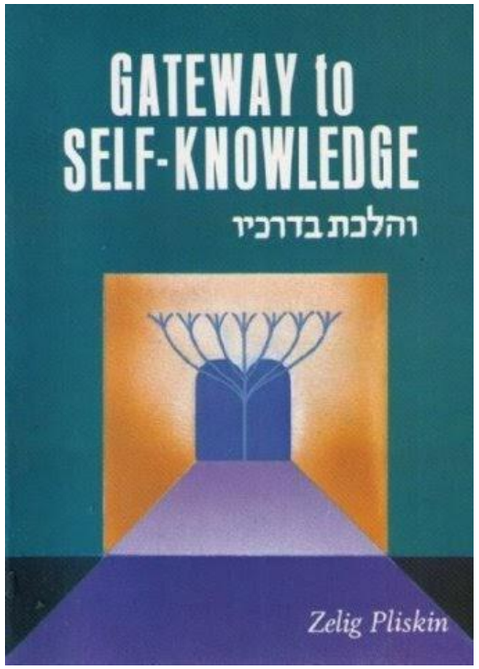
Building Jewish Ethical Character was written by Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky and Rabbi Murray Friedman and published in 1975. It's rare on Amazon but can be found in libraries through Worldcat.



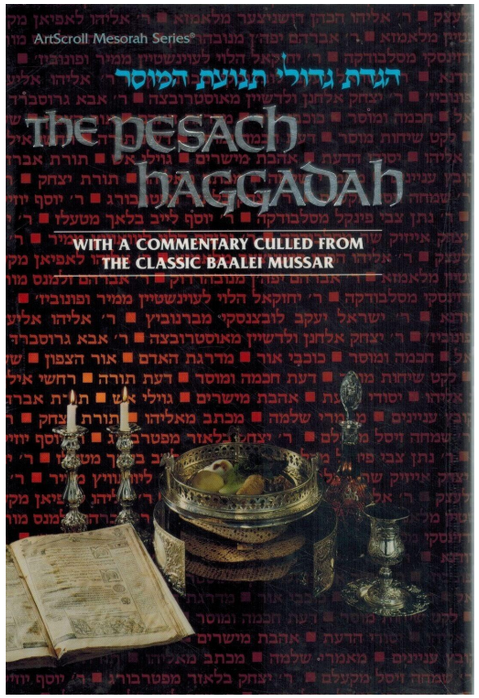
A Candle By Day: Three Thousand Topical Musar Modules is a collection of witty Mussar-toned proverbs. Written by Shraga Silverstein, it was originally published by Maznaim in 1981 (238 pages) and republished independently in 2013 (250 pages).


THE ETHICAL PERSONALITY
והלכת בדרכין
BY RABBI ZECHARIAH FENDEL
Clarifying the Torah approach to ethics, including the Iggeres HaRamban, the Iggeres HaMussar, and Ethical Narratives

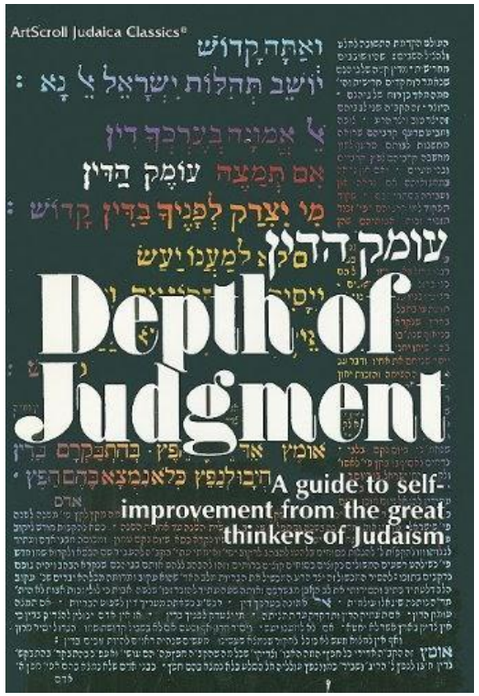
The Ethical Personality was written by Zechariah Fender and published by Hashkafah in 1986. 332 pages. Get it here.



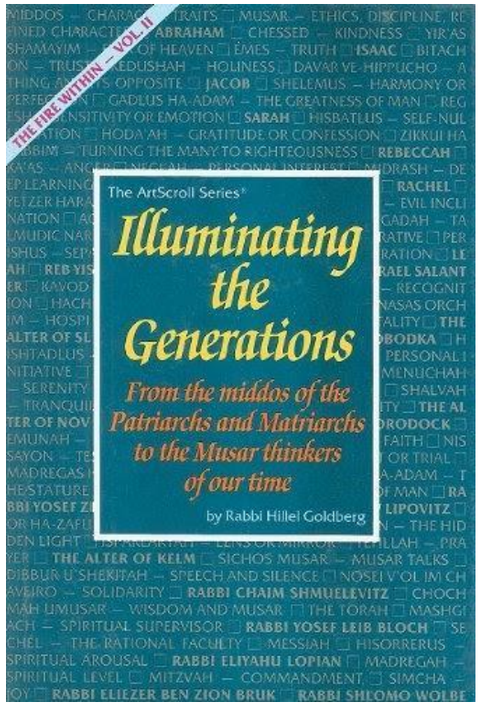
Gateway to Self-Knowledge was written by Zelig Pliskin and published by Aish HaTorah in 1986. 532 pages. Get it on Amazon or download the pdf. We almost included this book in the Top Ten for its 500 pages of middot-oriented questions for contemplation.



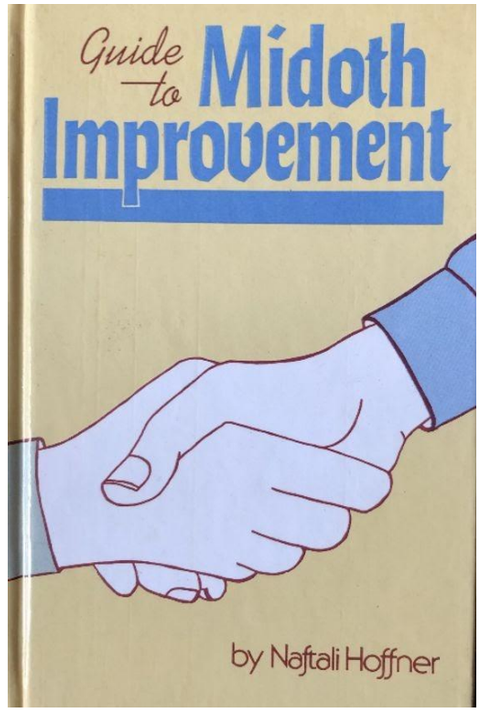
The Mussar Pesach Haggadah - With Commentary Culled From Classic Baalei Mussar was compiled by Rabbi Shalom Wallach and published by Artscroll in 1989. 221 pages. Get it here.



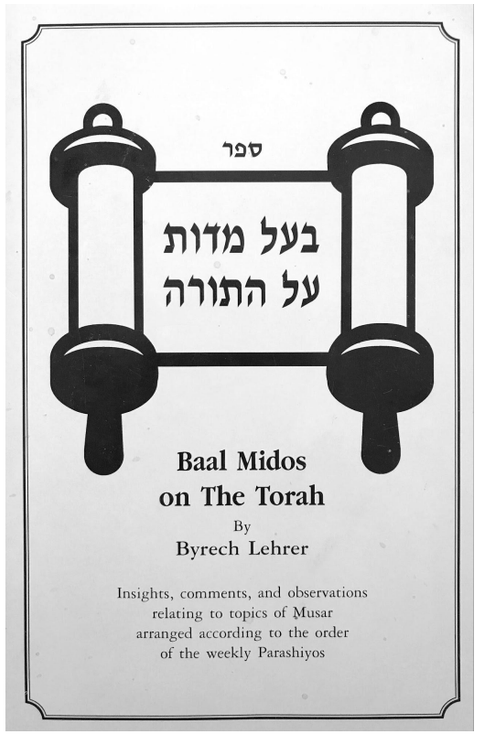
Depth of Judgment: A Guide to Self-Improvement from the Great Thinkers of Judaism was written by Rabbi Shalom Wallach and published by Artscroll in 1991. 176 pages. Get it here.


THE FIRE WITHIN — VOL. II
The ArtScroll Series®
Illuminating the Generations
From the middos of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs to the Musar thinkers of our time
by Rabbi Hillel Goldberg

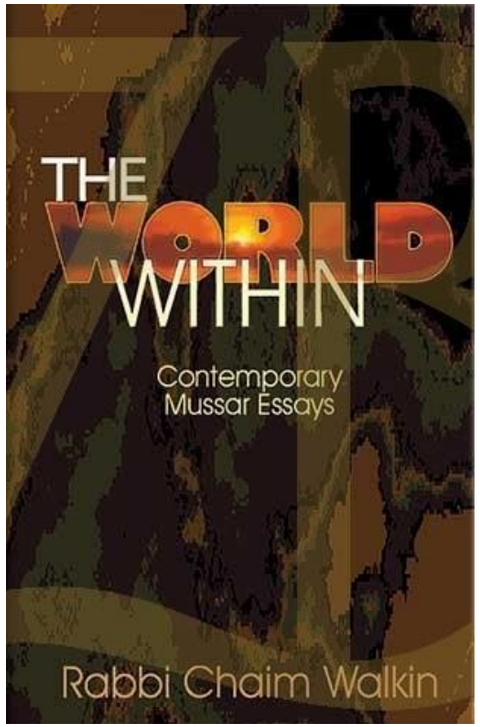
Illuminating The Generations: From the Middos of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs to the Musar Thinkers of our Time was written by Rabbi Hillel Goldberg as a sequel to The Fire Within and was published by Artscroll in 1992. 223 pages. Get it here.



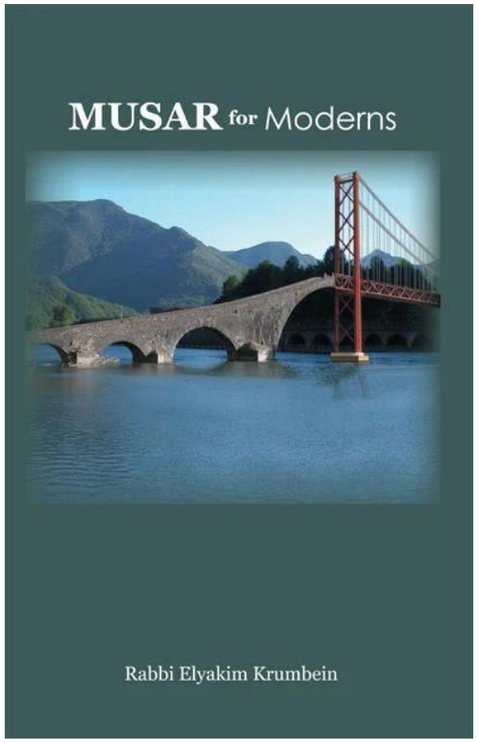
Guide to Midoth Improvement was written by Naftali Hoffner and published by Feldheim in 1995. 80 pages. Get it here.



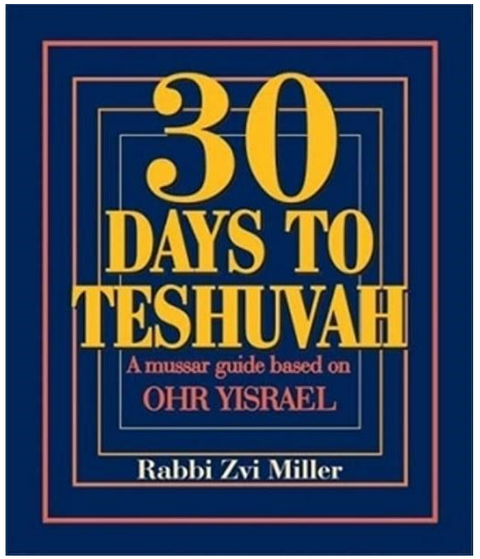
Baal Midos or Masters of Character on the Torah was written by Byrech Lehrer and published by Kew Gardens in 1995. 96 pages. Find a library copy through WorldCat here and here.



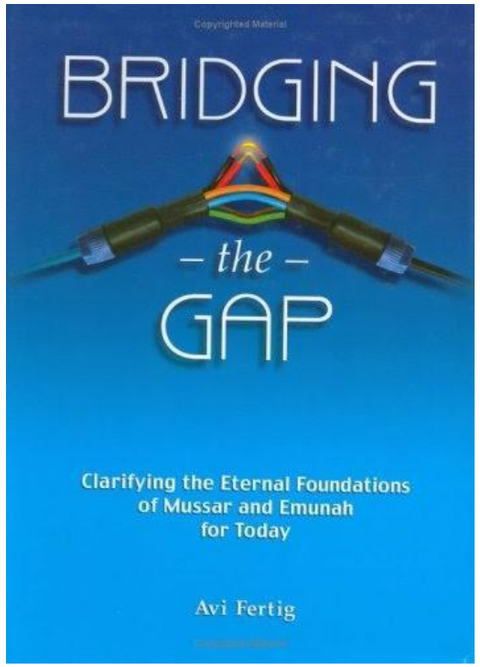
The World Within: Contemporary Mussar Essays was written by Rabbi Chaim Walkin and published by Targum in 2000. 297 pages. Get it here.



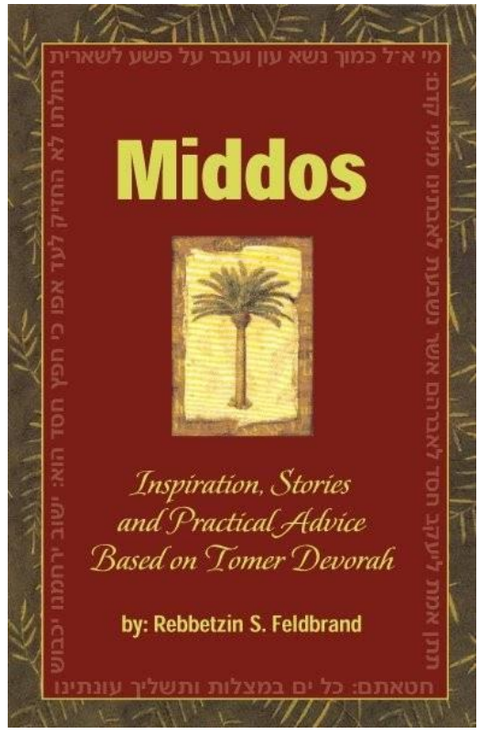
Musar for Moderns was written by Elyakim Krumbain and published by Ktav in 2005. 147 pages. Get it here.



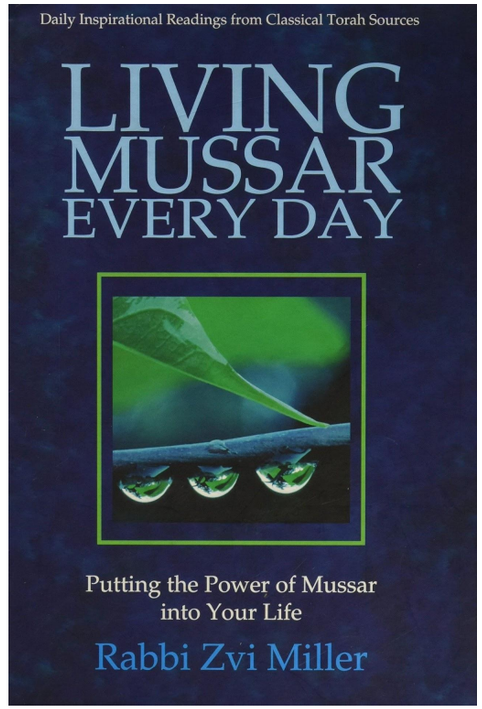
30 Days to Teshuvah: A Mussar Guide Based on Ohr Yisrael is based on the writings of/about Rabbi Israel Salanter in Ohr Yisrael. Written by Rabbi Zvi Miller and published by Feldheim in 2005. 120 pages. Get it here.



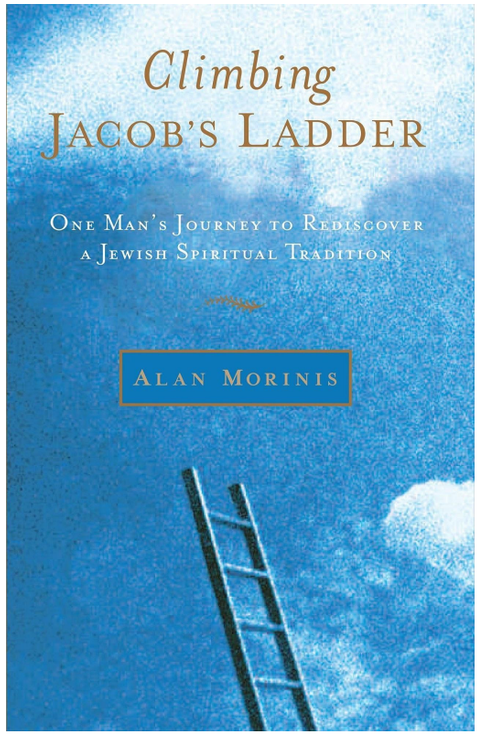
Bridging the Gap was written by Avi Fertig and published by Feldheim in 2007. It's rare on Amazon but you can find a library copy through WorldCat. 535 pages.



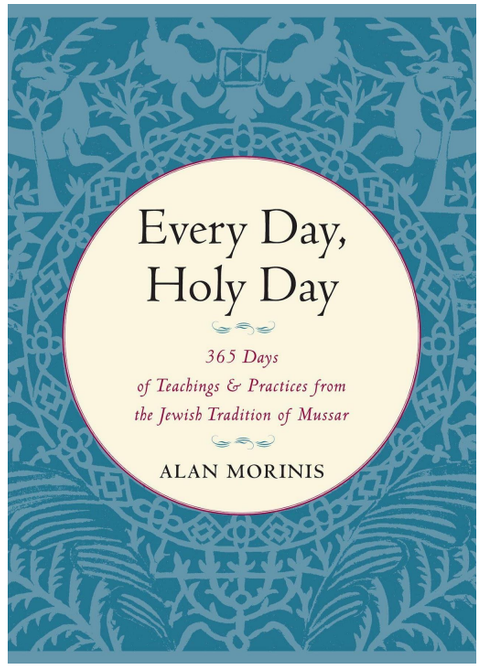
Middos: Inspiration, Stories, and Practical Advice Based on Tomer Devorah was written by Rebbetzin Sarah Feldbrand and published by Israel Bookshop in 2007. 312 pages. Get it here.



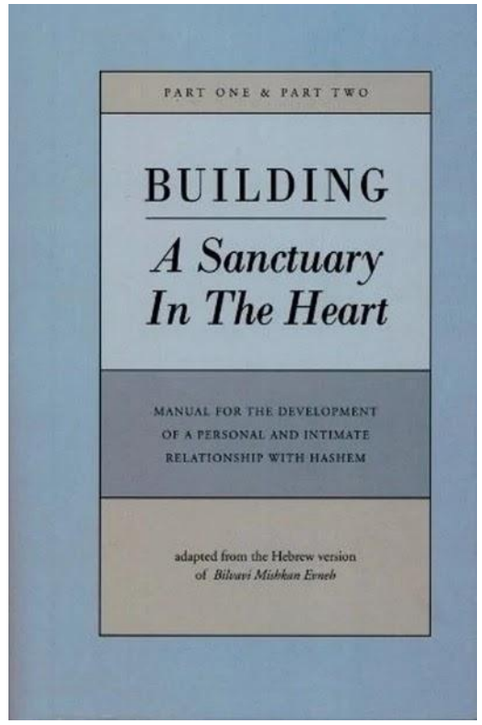
Living Mussar Every Day: Putting the Power of Mussar into Your Life was written by Rabbi Zvi Miller and published by Targum in 2007. 410 pages. It's rare on Amazon so try finding a library copy through WorldCat.



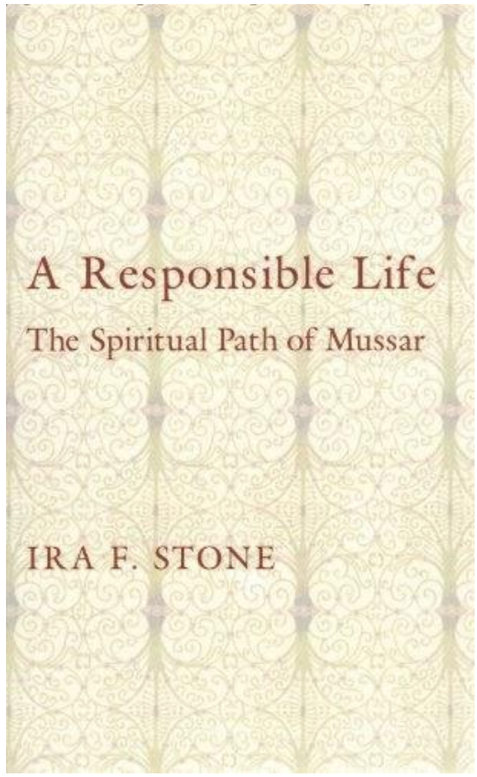
Climbing Jacob's Ladder: One Man's Journey to Rediscover a Jewish Spiritual Tradition is the story of Alan Morinis and his own Mussar journey, published by Trumpeter in 2007. 240 pages. Get it here as hard copy or ebook. Be sure to see his two books on the Top Ten list also.



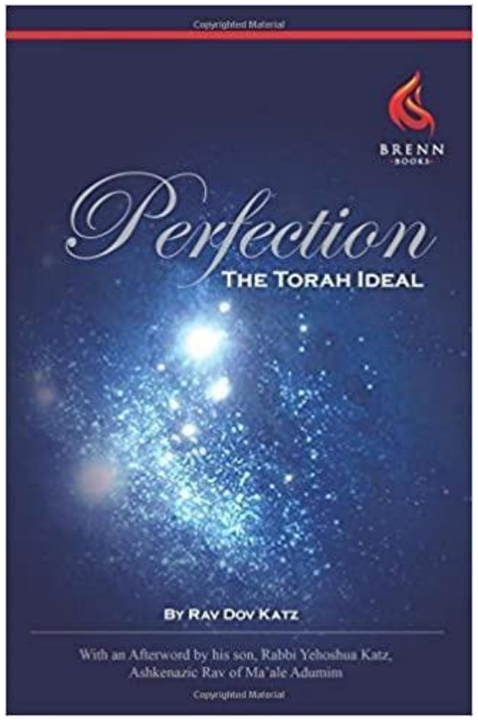
Every Day, Holy Day: 365 Days of Teachings and Practices from the Jewish Tradition of Mussar was written by Alan Morinis and published by Trumpeter in 2010. 416 pages. Get it in paperback, ebook, or audiobook (3:56 hours.)



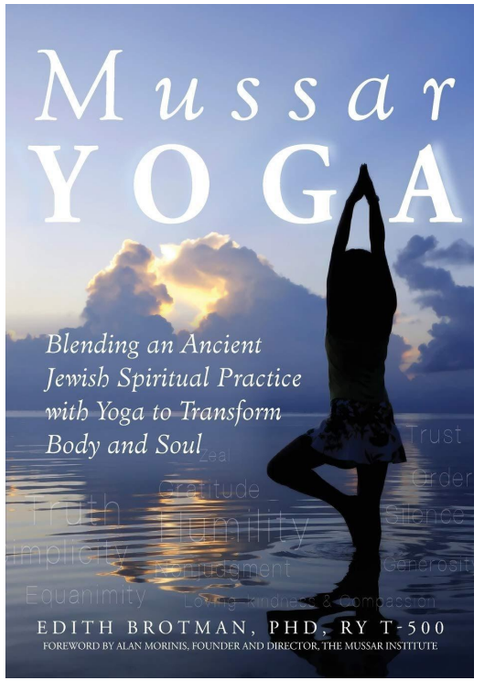
Bilvavi Mishkan Evneh or Building a Sanctuary in the Heart: Manual for the Development of a Personal and Intimate Relationship with Hashem was written by Rabbi Isamar Schwartz in 2011. It's rare on Amazon but Parts 1 and 2 can be read and downloaded here and here. You can also download parts 3 to 7 along with other Mussar-rich works here.



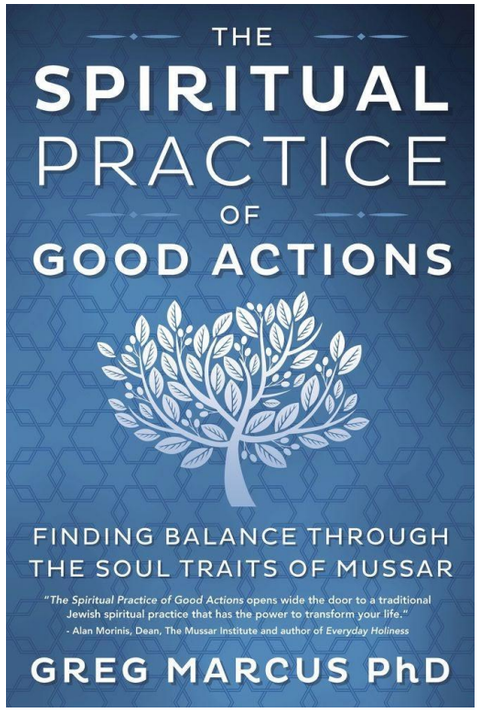
A Responsible Life: The Spiritual Path of Mussar was written by Rabbi Ira Stone and published in 2013. 270 pages. This excellent book almost made it to the Top Ten! Get it in paperback or ebook.



Perfection: The Torah Ideal by Rabbi Dov Katz - the author of *Tenuat Ha'Mussar*, the authoritative five-volume history of the Mussar movement - came out in 2014 as a reprint of an earlier work. 152 pages. Get it here.



Mussar Yoga was written by Edith Brotman and published by Jewish Lights in 2014. 224 pages. Get it in hardcover, paperback, or ebook.


THE
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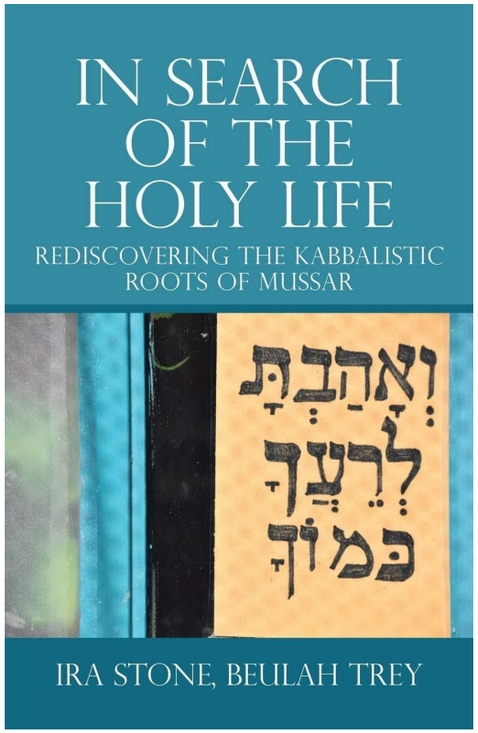
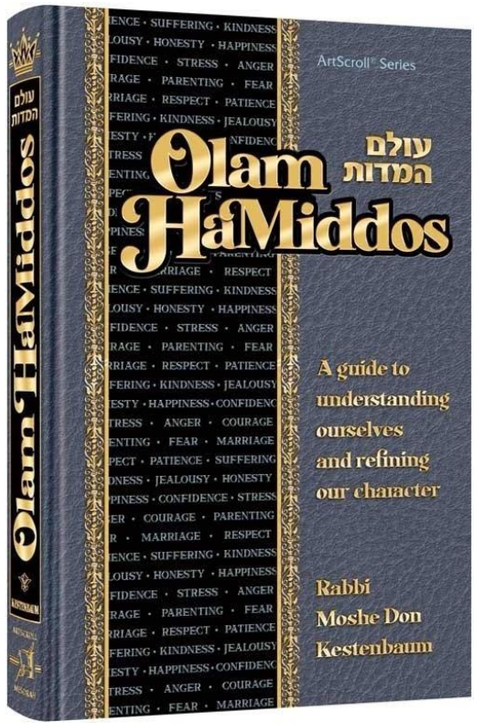
GREG MARCUS PhD

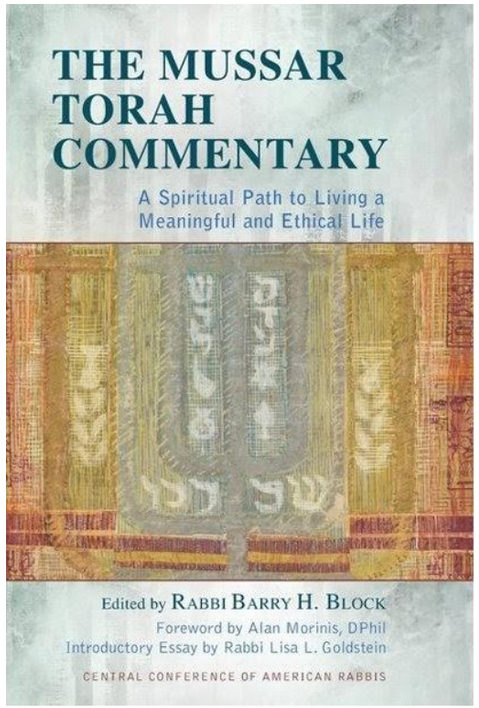
The Spiritual Practice of Good Actions: Finding Balance Through the Soul Traits of Mussar was written by Greg Marcus and published by Llewellyn in 2016. 264 pages. Get it in paperback or ebook.



In Search of the Holy Life: Rediscovering the Kabbalistic Roots of Mussar was written by Rabbi Ira Stone and Beulah Trey in 2019. 102 pages. Get it in paperback or ebook.



Olam HaMiddos or World of Character Qualities was written by Rabbi Moshe Don Kestenbaum and published by Artscroll in 2019. 324 pages. Get it here.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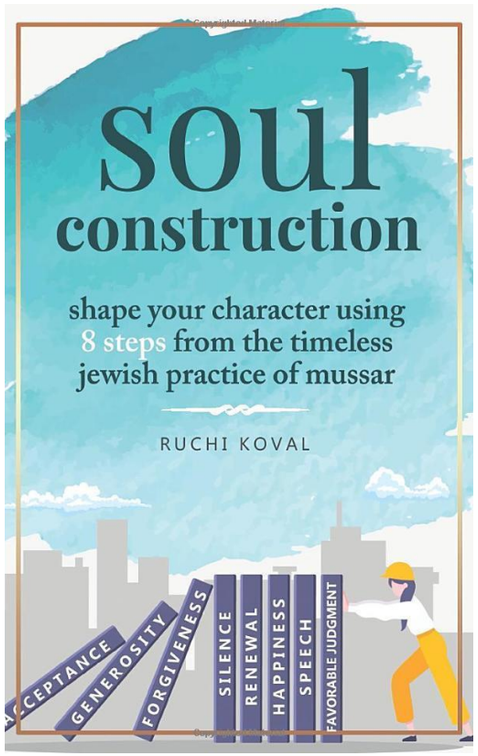
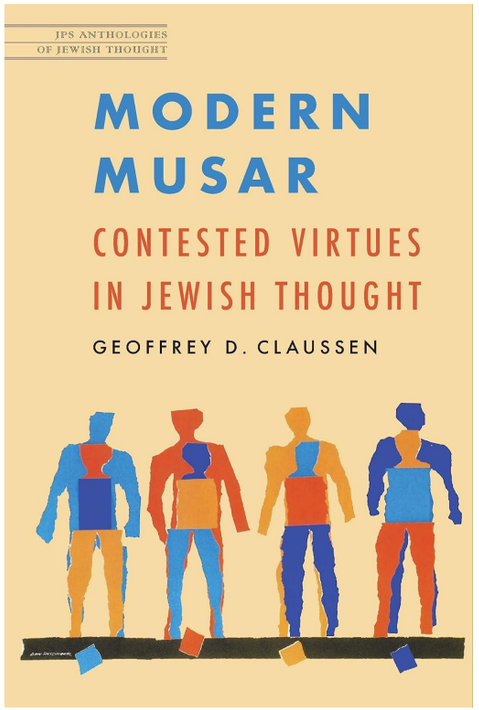
Edited by RABBI BARRY H. BLOCK
Foreword by Alan Morinis, DPhil
Introductory Essay by Rabbi Lisa L. Goldstein
CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

The Mussar Torah Commentary: A Spiritual Path to Living a Meaningful and Ethical Life was edited by Rabbi Barry Block and introduced with a foreword by Alan Morinis. Published 2019, 402 pages. Get it in paperback or ebook.



Soul Construction: Shape Your Character Using 8 Steps from the Timeless Jewish Practice of Mussar was written by Ruchi Koval and published in 2021. 185 pages. Get it in paperback, ebook, or audiobook (5:14 hours.)



Modern Musar: Contested Virtues in Jewish Thought was written by Geoffrey D. Claussen and published by the Jewish Publication Society in 2022. 464 pages. Get it in paperback or ebook.

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